

HALESWORTH GOLF CLUB – GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21st, February, 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—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, EA, PK, GS, CC, SH, KF, JM, RS, KPB, DW

Apologies: RD, PB, DT

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Under ‘Matters for Discussion’ JM queried the accuracy of the statement that no changes should be made to the rules governing existing competitions without reference to the General Committee and if necessary to the person who had donated the trophy, feeling that if it was a trophy played for by the Seniors it should be the Seniors’ Committee who should have the autonomy to make such a decision. It was agreed however that any proposed changes to a Board Competition should always, out of courtesy, be agreed by the General Club Committee.

Matters Arising: PK raised the question again of the offer from member Richard Rhodes to fund a camera on the 5th hole for safety reasons. BT said he would look into this to see how it might work in practical terms. Updating the list of members to be included on the ‘hole in one’ tags was also mentioned.

Club Update: An update from EA stated that the February ‘Restaurant Evening’ had 50 people in attendance and another such evening is planned for March. On the 16th March there will be another Quiz Night hosted by Seniors’ Vice-Captain, Dave Tower, with 9 tables already booked. BT went on to say that the updating of furniture in the bar is ongoing and that the repair of the range nets has been completed sooner than thought with the help of the metal sleeves used to speed up the process and also aware of the problems with the existing on course toilet and that there were plans to move the toilet to a new location in due course. The used tee peg boxes have been removed as they were in a poor state as have some of the rubbish bins. The slope rating boards on the first tee would be replaced and updated and in 2025 the course would be re-rated with the possibility of gender-neutral tees being introduced. The rake holders are now in place in all of the bunkers and replacing the rakes should be encouraged with the possibility of a reminder on the club news to all members. The trees on the mound at the far end of the driving range have now been removed and on the course in general a number of tree guards have been removed.

Lady Captain’s Report I can’t believe where already into February, and the weather has been mild but windy for this time of the year, let’s hope it continues as spring approaches.

We have had plenty of fun comps throughout January, and it has been great to see with quite a few ladies entering and giving them the opportunity to play with other ladies they may have not played with to date, always good fun, and normally a good turnout. We have had one Stapleford qualifier on the 18th Jan, which I cowardly pulled out of with a few others after seeing the weather report for the day, feeling like -9, was not my idea of fun. For those iron Ladies that braved the weather well done and take my hat off to you. It certainly didn’t affect Jean Berry who came in with a tremendous score of 40 points. So well done Jean.

My thanks goes to Sara for continuing to do the competitions, she does a fantastic job in tweaking the Diary to make sure it works for all Parties involved, and keeping us all involved with updates, even more so when the comps have to be played and then unfortunately someone pulls out, and panic arises of getting another

player to step up, or even have to redo the team sheet, and I appreciate this can be very stressful at times.
Thank You Sara

The home and away friendlies are very well supported again this year, my thanks go to Karen Forster my lovely vice-captain, and who is also our Ladies club secretary, Karen has taken her role on like the swans have at Halesworth to water, Karen is doing a fantastic job, organising the ladies and mixed friendlies, well in advance. She is also encouraging our newer ladies to take part and has already shown she that she will be an excellent Captain in 2025. Thank you to Ellie for supporting Karen and giving her the food options going forward, which I believe have always been a good choice and great value for money.

As you know I'm supporting the Bobby Moore fund this year, and the money has already started to come in, and you will undoubtedly hear me mentioning this charity many times throughout the year, so I will be highly grateful for all your support. Viv our treasurer is dealing with the funds, so thank you to Viv, I'm yet to phone the charity to get their bank details to back the funds to them hopefully monthly, I will update you all when I have more information. While we are still on the topic of the charity, My appreciation and gratitude go to Rita Fossey, and Viv Leech for joining me to do a 666 challenge as we have called it, we are going to do a course in 6 days for the Number 6 Bobby Moore, we are hoping to raise as much money as possible through sponsorship, and will be putting a sponsorship form up on the ladies and gents notice board. I have been in touch with the following clubs, Bungay, Diss, Gorleston, Rookery, and Southwold, the response I have had in them supporting us has been greatly appreciated, and overwhelming and they are very happy to accommodate us, I have also asked the Ladies captains at their clubs if they would like to join us on the day, I have had a very good response to this and some have agreed so far, I'm just waiting from others to reply, our challenge Starts on Monday 27th May and finishing at Halesworth on Saturday 1st June, it would be lovely to see so many friendly faces as we come in and get over the finishing line. My appreciation and gratitude also go to Sara who is also raising money for the charity by doing 55 holes for big 55th birthday, Sara is doing her challenge with Ali Wallace from Rookery so looking to get as much sponsorship as we can for Sara too. Thank You Ladies so much for all your support.

It's great to see our ladies section continuing to grow. This will give greater choice for our county captains, which can only be a positive going forward for HGCL, who all have the ability of moving Halesworth forward.

Just a note as well about our Captain vs Vice Captain competition on April 18th which will be on the theme of Alice in Wonderland. I thought I'd let you know early so you could get thinking about costumes.

And finally, thanks to the Ladies committee who are all doing a fantastic Job, and are all working extremely well together. They all keep us well informed of any updates and changes that arise, your contributions and input are valuable and much appreciated, keep up the good work Ladies, and well done.

Ladies' Competition Secretary Report:

January was comparable to the song, name that tune, but instead it was name that storm! We endured temperatures of 'feels like' -7.5 degrees – so far we have encountered Henk, Isha and Jocelyn battering Britain and by all accounts we are not over the worst of it and look forward to meeting Kathleen next.

Being competition secretary really has its demands when trying to foresee British weather and keep a tee sheet together! But we managed to have a couple of fun competitions in the mix namely throw, kick mulligan – well done to Sally Baxter, Sue Millard and Maggie Bennett. And results for the Reverse Waltz were winning team again Sue Millard, Sally Baxter and Karol Perley – I will make sure I put myself down in your team next time.

January stableford only had 11 ladies sign up, it was a very cold day and the hot chocolate in the club house seemed a better idea than a cold wind outside in your face. Well done to the following:-

Dv1 Sally Baxter 33 (OCB), Barbara Dennis 33 and Judith Bedwell 31

Dv2 Jean Berry 40, Susanne Wilson 38, Mary Pickering 37

February is set to be busy with ladies signing up already for qualifiers and fun competitions.

It was decided at committee level to increase the competition payments which has been welcomed across the board. I know Viv, our treasurer will be documenting this in her report so I don't wish to double up on that.

As we know, the new rules in WHS start 1st April regarding handicapping and course ratings will change. I'm getting my head around this together with Lesley our handicap secretary so we are all ready for the change well in advance. To document this the main areas are as follows:-

*Inclusion of Shorter-Length Golf Courses Within the Course Rating™ System

*Use of an Expected Score for a Hole Not Played

*Playing Conditions Calculation Adjustments Made More Frequent

*Enhanced Guidance on Conducting a Handicap Review

*The Inclusion of Four Ball Better Ball Scores within GB&I

*Course Handicap™ using CR-Par

*Rounding

I will be detailing as much as I can to our section to make the change seamless; I also have guidance notes from England Golf that I will be posting in our ladies section both electronically and printed. If any lady wishes to discuss this on a one to one please feel free to contact me. I am always available for a chat!

We look forward to hearing from Daily Mail regarding the start of the new 2024 competition, I expect to be advised after 4th February to where Rita and Lesley will be playing and who their opponents will be – best of luck ladies in your rounds.

I have entered Georgianna Coby to represent the ladies and Jack Rawlinson to represent the men at the Race to Woodhall Spa at our local regional event June 16th at Stowmarket GC. They are both eager to play and its lovely to have one of juniors represent Halesworth for I think the first time.

As always wishing everyone a great golfing season in 2024.

Ladies' Handicap Secretary report

All very quiet on the handicap front still. A few eclectic cards being submitted on Sundays and Thursdays.

We have 2 new ladies as of the 1st Feb

[Ava Barber](#) Not yet awarded CDH or handicap 01/02/2024

[Angela Morris](#) Not yet awarded CDH or handicap 01/02/2024

In the last month these ladies improved their handicap, albeit very slightly. The most improved was Alison Dudeney 1.1 followed by Carol Perley 0.7. Then Clare Woods, Sally Baxter and Jane Linford by 0.2, 0.1 and 0.1 respectively.

Well done to these ladies in this cold weather.

Top 3 in the eclectic as of today,

1st Lesley King 61

2nd Susanne Wilson 62.1

3rd Clare Woods 62.9.

2 months to go!

I am looking forward to handicaps moving more dramatically as the year progresses.

Ladies' Treasurer's Report

The majority of funds received this month are for the upcoming Winter League Gala Day which we are hosting on 11th March and organized by Barbara Dennis. 76 ladies have paid a total of £1900 making our balance look very healthy.

However, after receipt of £56.50 from the January competitions due this week, we will only have £215.55 in the main account and £510.90 in the savings account. The remaining £290 in the savings account are from sale of tags for the Lady Captains Charity.

We have 5 competitions in February which should bring in more funds and hopefully with the increase in the cost of playing in the competitions & more ladies playing as the weather hopefully improves, we should increase the amounts seen month on month.

We are using the prize fund calculations kindly proposed and sorted by Karen and I think the ladies seem happy with how this now works.

Karen, Sara and myself have been working on putting in place the Financial Procedures discussed in our last committee meeting including having another member of the committee authorizing any payments leaving the bank account, protecting both the Treasurer and funds held by the Ladies Section. I think this document will be a great asset.

Club Captain's Report:

Since the January Committee meeting on 10.01.24 –

1. Another busy month as Club Captain
2. I continue to try to play with **different Gents** each Sunday as part of getting to know more players generally. Where I see players I do not recognise in the clubhouse I introduce myself wherever possible. Managing the Tolly has helped this enormously.
3. Captained the **Seniors Winter League team** in three matches. Bungay away (3-1) Caldecott away (0-4) & Rookery Park away (1.5 - 2.5). The seniors Winter League finale was held at Bungay on **15.02.24**. We provided four players for this match and I have chosen Simon Hunter (as ex Winter League Captain Richard Fernley could not make it), as well as Larry Gazzard & David Hopkins, whose names were drawn from a hat from all this season's players. **Simon & David scored a magnificent 43 points to win the finale.**
4. **Reviewed the WHS webinar** on the upcoming WHS changes on CR-Par, standardisation of Par, Rounding, nine-hole scoring, Better-ball scoring to be uploaded, holes not played calculation etc. Rob has kindly shared the implication table for each SGU match.
5. **Charities** – Liaised with GS & SW with regard to seeking fourball exchanges with other clubs. 11 successful swaps of vouchers so far. Terry Jeffrey has kindly agreed to donate a painting once again. My chosen charity will be 'local' young carers overseen by Social Services. I am meeting the manager of that service (Jess Searle) on 28.02.24

6. Updated the '**Aims and Objectives for 2024**' paper which we agreed at January's meeting following the inclusion of a couple of points and some slight rewording. This now becomes a working document for the committee.
7. Met with Bob Judd to continue the oversight of the **Tolly Cobbold selection** process. We held our first 'trial' match on 10.02.24 (but unfortunately the weather restricted this to a 10-hole trial) and have a full fixture list including matches away to Diss on 16.03.24 and against Hambro and SGU U16 team at Halesworth. We will have a practice round at **Aldeburgh** on 07.04.24. The match is on **21.04.24** and we would welcome anyone offering support.
8. I have met with Mark Coby and plans are firming up for both the **Hambro** and **Stenson** squads. To enable team captains Mark & Paul to focus on the Stenson match I have agreed to do all the paperwork preparations etc for the team and ensure communication is kept during the match between players. **Hambro team play The Suffolk away on 21.04.24. The Stenson team play away at Stowmarket on 04.05.24**
9. I have assisted Stan by setting up the **Parks 24** squad information on IG. **The Parks team play Ipswich at home on 16.05.24.**
10. Rob has the **Beaumont** squad in hand. **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.
11. All **SGU competition** trials and matches are now being **logged onto IG** for future reference and an historical record of how HG has done.
12. Met with **Ellie** on **07.02.24** to discuss members feedback about a number of issues. We discussed possible use of 'Survey Monkey' for some limited members feedback where required (e.g., extra £10 on fee to be donated to Junior's section) Also updates on previous items raised –
 - '**Halfway house**' is that we are looking to have first trial of this on the New Captains drive in on 17.03.24
 - Additional **portaloo** is being quoted for
 - **Officers' photos** being considered for website beside name and position.
 - **Policy updates** – EA to discuss with RD.
 - **Coffees** – team have had additional training to speed up process during busy times (e.g., 4 at once)
 - Publicising in our monthly newsletter, **national competition entrants** from Halesworth Golf e.g., Chris Peach & Colin Hillier (Daily Mail Foursomes) & Jack Rawlinson (Race to Woodall Spa)
13. Matters **raised with me**, by members, since my election as Captain continue to be contained within this report
 - Several members have approached me about **slow play** in the Gents competitions. An example given was the wait of 30 minutes for some on the first tee after their allotted tee time on. (I witnessed this first hand where my fourball was 12 minutes late getting off the first tee). This is always frustrating but even more so when its freezing weather and damp underfoot. (Discussed and agreed with RD that we will collectively monitor over next month or so and also advise players to ring the shop if they genuinely feel there is slow play ahead. Ali was phoned and came out on buggy during Feb medal. That occasion it was volume of players and testing conditions.)
 - Committee members **booking tee times** with 'friends' before comps opened to all. Discussed with RD and deemed suitable as person playing in a team event and finalising competition that day.
 - **Fourballs** being booked before comps on a Sunday. Discussed with RD. Linked to limited daylight hours period – only happened twice.

- **Increase in price of food** and a request for hot snacks to 'take out' on a Sunday morning. Discussed with Ellie. Have fed back to players.
- **Slow payment of winnings** after a Sunday competition. Some issues with a changeover of bank but new system has seen much speedier process as competition secretary informs main office who then make payments direct onto card. Players feedback very positive now.
- **GUR** on blackboard sometimes obscured by trolleys before a competition. Discussed with RD. Agreed it is players responsibility to check board following bad weather conditions.
- **Not receiving Gents competition results** – I passed this on to RD and this turned out to be a 'glitch' whereby some (but not all) members with gmail accounts were not receiving emails considered 'bulk' due to restrictions google had set in place in an upgrade. This has now been rectified after HG raised the matter with IG. This affected all sections.

14. Arranged to meet with the manager of 'family carers' team on 28.02.24 (**Captains Charity**)

15. Following discussions with RD, EA, GS and Eaton Club Captain we have agreement to swap 8 fourball tee times (at a date to be confirmed) to facilitate **Gents 'away days'** linked to respective Club Captains charities. Money raised from trip (after prizes and coffees etc) by HG will then be donated to the Air Ambulance pot in order to support Gary & the club's efforts to reach the magic £250,000 this year.

16. I met with **KF and CC on 07.02.24** to start drafting a paper for committee to consider, regarding actions focussed on an **equal opportunities action plan**. We feel the first proper draft will be ready to be shared at March's meeting.

17. **Suffolk Golf Union AGM** has been confirmed for 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. I have agreed to attend as HG representative.

18. **Colin Hillier** (and **Chris Peach**) has confirmed he has registered for the draw in the **Daily Mail Pairs** as last year's competition representative winners at HG. They have been drawn at home to the representatives from **Bungay and play on 24.02.24 at 09.36**.

19. **Race to Woodall Spa 2024** – **Jack Rawlinson** has been entered into this competition representing HG following his qualification during 2023, with matches due in August 2024.

20. Road to **Aldeburgh 2024** – I feel we need to publicise the criteria for this event and have spoken to RS about putting something together for players. Currently, winning the competition at HG (as **Stephen Ford did in 2023**) does not achieve the points required to enter the competition at Aldeburgh.

21. Raised the **IG glitch** with RD relating to some g-mail account holders not receiving all emails sent by club (eg competition results). IG investigating but looks like it may be a google update issue blocking 'bulk' emails.

22. Had a discussion with JJ discussing **Junior's section** and where it would be useful for me to be involved. Agreed Open days and where possible matches. Initial discussion about fundraising possibilities.

02.03.24 Juniors v Felixstowe (A)
09.03.24 Juniors v Gorleston (A)
12.03.24 Club Committee Meeting
16.03.24 Tolly Practice match v Diss (A)
16.03.24 Juniors V Gorleston (H)
17.03.24 New Captains Drive In
22.03.24 Suffolk Golf Union AGM
23.03.24 Tolly v Hambro match
24.03.24 Anniversary Cup
24.03.24 Juniors v Woodbridge (H)

Seniors' Committee Report:

Golf and Matches

We finished our Winter League fixtures with a narrow loss to Rookery Park away, meaning we ended with 14 points and finished in 3rd place. Caldecott were this year's winners with an impressive 20 points.

Congratulations go to Simon Hunter and David Hopkins in ensuring a victory for Halesworth in the Winter League Finale played at Bungay last week. They amassed 43 pts the end of season competition. Thanks also to Club Captain Paul Kent for all his efforts in captaining the seniors in The Winter League this year.

This coming Friday (23rd Feb) sees the last round of the Winter Accumulator which is very close in Divisions One and Two and a 5 point leader in Division Three.

The Wenhaston Trophy was postponed due to the weather and is likely to be held in April 2024.

The Metfield Mafia Mug was won by Keith Claydon and Robert West on 19th Jan.

Programme and Fixtures 2024

Our first friendly fixture of the year is at home to Rookery Park on Wed 6th March 2024. As a result of a reminder email to get members to up-date their availability on IG, we now have a healthy pool of seniors to make team selections from for 29 of the 32 planned matches.

The new addition to our friendly fixture list has now been confirmed - home and away at Hintlesham.

Committee

There has been no Seniors Committee meeting since our last main meeting.

The minutes of Seniors Committee meetings are now published on the club web site.

The date of the next Seniors Committee meeting is Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 3pm.

New members / Tee times

We have had 6 new members join the Seniors section since 1st February 2024 – that takes our Senior membership to over 390 and 257 full senior members. Another tranche is expected next month.

Last year we were getting 60+ members entering our regular Tuesday and Friday competitions - the last Stableford qualifier on 13th Feb had 70 entrants and this Fridays Stableford qualifier has 72 entrants. It is getting increasingly harder to book in a tee team and members are setting alarms at 6.45am on Tuesday and Friday mornings to ensure they get a tee time. Within half an hour of the booking system opening, over half the tee times are taken. Some senior members who for whatever reason are slow in booking are missing out. The availability of earlier tee times outside the competition parameters does help.

Anecdotal evidence suggests also that members are joining Halesworth GC because of the success of the senior competitions regime that we have.

Treasurer's Report : You will be pleased to know that the bank account with Lloyds is now open and the balance has been transferred from Barclays.

I am pleased to report that Carol in the office has accounted for the entry fees for competitions and has also paid out the prizes as authorised by our Competitions Secretary. The net sum for the last 4 months £1409 has been paid into the account.

Payment has been made for the outstanding matters of last year including the Turkey Trot and the AGM buffet. I paid personally for the glassware from Lesley Pyke £418.00 – may I have your permission to reimburse myself,

Also paid was £781.96 for engraving all the trophies – including those of the Ladies and the Seniors. I would suggest that they should each make a contribution of £175.00 towards this expense.

We have received a contribution from the Golf Foundation £250 for use with the Juniors. The outstanding teaching accounts from our professionals have been paid. These got caught up in the period between bank accounts.

The current balance in the account is £10,107.28.

I have put the 100 Club on 'hold' during this period, but will now try to be active again.

If members wish to pay by Standing Order the account details are Sort Code 30 99 50 and Account number 2533 6062 and Account Name "Halesworth Golf Club General Committee".

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

Sunday January 14th – GENTS Monthly Medal – 61 Entrants

Winner Sam Borrett Net 69

2nd Tyron Prins Net 70 ocb

3rd Clive Seward Net 70

Sunday January 21st – GENTS Monthly Stableford – 71 Entrants

Winner Jason King 42 Pts

2nd Oliver Last 41 Pts

3rd Kevin Bates 40 Pts

Sunday January 28th – Gents GREENSOMES – 72 Entrants

Winners Neil Coby & Brett Lockwood 40 Pts OCB

2nd Cameron & Craig Bacon 40 Pts

3rd Ed Bowles & Jack Payne 39 Pts

Sunday February 4th – GENTS Monthly Medal – 61 Entrants

Winner Oliver Last Net 71 OCB

2nd Richard Doddington Net 71 ocb

3rd Daniel Smith Net 71

Sunday February 11th – Cpt Ernie Challenge Trophy – CANCELLED COURSE Closed Flooded

Sunday February 18th – Gents Foursomes – CANCELLED COURSE Closed Flooded

Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - Early Leader is Oliver Last 36 Pts, 2nd Danny Smith 25 and 3rd Mark Beglarian 22

Gents Summer Eclectic – Early Leader is Tyron Prins – Net 63

Winter Singles knockout Semi Final Stage – Jack Rawlinson v Paul Butcher and Tyron Prins v either Paul Sherwood or Kevin Bowe

Winter Foursomes nearly at Final Stage John Last & Nick Bloom v either Ian Stannard & Gary Slaymaker or Wayne Jacques & Matt McGinn

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Sunday February 25th GENTS Monthly Stableford
- Sunday March 3rd GENTS Monthly Medal
- Sunday March 10th GENTS Monthly Stableford
- Sunday March 17th NEW CAPTAINS – ‘DRIVE IN’
- Sunday March 24th ANNIVERSARY CUP (Mixed Competition)
- Sunday March 31st GENTS Foursomes

1. Greenkeepers Cup & Front of House Distribution of money update

During the past month I have received a lot of negative feedback regarding how they have perceived the money raised in these 2 events has been distributed.

Greenkeepers Cup – 86% was distributed direct to the Greenkeepers who shared this equally resulting a nice amount received – Other members of the outside team received the other 14%

Front of House Shield – 24% was distributed direct to the Front of House team resulting in a much smaller amount being received in comparison to the Greenkeepers. Other members of the inside team received the other 76%!

On behalf of the members I arranged a meeting with Ellie Andrews and then a subsequent meeting with Ben Townsend after which the following has been agreed:-

- ✓ The Front of House Team (Girls) will be given an additional payment at the end of February to ensure their payout is in line with that received by the GreenKeepers.
- ✓ The Net of people benefiting from the distribution to the Inside Team was too big and will be reduced next year.
- ✓ A meeting will take place between myself and the management to agree the distribution model for the Inside Team using a proposed distribution model put together by myself which reflects the ethos of the competition in line with the Greenkeepers.

I would ask all Committee members to ensure this is fed back to any member who has raised this with them to ensure members are reassured that money given is distributed in line with the ethos of each competition.

2. Response to issues raised at club AGM.

Looking at the minutes from the January meeting I cannot see any discussion that has taken place, therefore as Competition Secretary I offer the following response for the committee to consider with the caveat that points raised were by 2 members and do not reflect the conversations that I have had with other members who play regularly in the competitions :-

I have increased Prize Money for the overall winner of the Competition.

- 6 divisions remain as this provides an opportunity for all players to compete fairly with others in their same handicap range.
- Reduced prize money is given to any division winner who is not in the top 10 overall scores.
- Entry Fees to remain the same as this excess money is needed to support our county teams.
- % payout to be between 20 and 30%

3. PROPOSAL Re - 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 - suggested format for consideration, starting from the point that I feel it needs 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

1. 9 Hole Course Closed ALL DAY (so probably best on a weekday **Wednesday**)
2. **4 Ball Texas Scramble – Players can choose their own team or express an interest and I will sort out a team.**
3. 1 Drive per player BUT each par 3 MUST have a different player as tee shot.
4. 4 X 9 = 36 Players so to increase participation and allow for those with work commitments **we have 3 starting times 8am, 12pm and 4pm.**
5. Each time followed by a presentation in the clubhouse for Best 2 Team scores and two nearest pins.
6. **Prize also given along with the Eric Felgate Trophy to the team with the best score throughout the entire day.**
7. This presentation each time will give the opportunity to promote and explain the upcoming Valley Course Competitions as well as promote the captains who will present the prizes (Each captain (Gents, Ladies, Seniors) could do 1 presentation or any other mixture).

Valley Course Competitions - trail 4 - one per month June, July August, and September

- 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

These were my initial thoughts shared with the 3 captains and Richard. I have received feedback from Paul Kent and Richard Davies so I am now bringing it along for the committee to consider so that dates can be confirmed, competitions set up and placed onto the club diary.

2024 WHS Rules Changes

I have also completed the WHS portal webinar. It was an effective tool to enable me to obtain a clearer understanding of the changes and the impact at a club level.

I have produced a spreadsheet which will **show the course handicap using the new calculation for any player on any course in the world** provided you know the slope rating, course rating and par of the course to be played and **attached this to my report**.

As with the transfer from the old handicap system to WHS a few years ago I feel it is important we do not over complicate things for members. England golf have produced a short(ish) paper for the information of all golfers I feel **this is an effective communication tool to give to all members along with access to 3 very good short videos –**

Courses Rating Minus Par

Expected Score – From Scaling

Four-Ball Scores

[2024 WHS™ Update Resources \(englandgolf.org\)](https://www.englandgolf.org/2024-whs-update-resources)

(These are too big to attach please see England Golf WHS Updates to access).

I still advise that because of these changes from April 1st, 2024, **all Gents Competitions have a Playing Handicap of 100% NOT the current 95%**

A number of issues for comment and discussion arose from the above reports and are summarised below in no particular order.

Out of interest RS noted that the Ladies had increased their competition entry fees from £2.50 to £3.50 . KF assured him that the Ladies were aware and happy about this and that it was necessary as there are a relatively small number of entries to their competitions compared to the men.

JM mentioned that with the ever-increasing numbers entering Seniors' Competitions it was increasingly difficult for them to all secure a tee-time although the availability of time slots outside the official time allocation was a help. He felt that management should be aware of this. GS added to this by saying that in future some of the Seniors would need to tee-off in the afternoon when it was quieter and tee times available and that this was an option that would be popular for some. JM assured him that if he was made aware of this, they could be entered for the competition concerned. RS felt that the block booking times were as generous as could be expected and that booking outside these allocated tee-times was the way forward. GS mentioned the possibility of 4 balls as a way to cater for greater numbers but that this needed to be considered more carefully and was ultimately a management decision. PK was keen to make contact with all new members and asked if he could be included in the email to new members so that he knew who they were.

Slow play continues to be a problem on occasions and at times a visit out on the course from the pro shop proved to be helpful.

A query arose as to the cost of engraving trophies for the Presentation Evening. CC asked that the Ladies should be given an itemised bill rather than an estimate of their engraving costs. RS explained that would not be possible this year as the engraving was done at a very competitive price and no account had been taken of numbers of trophies from the individual sections of the club. This was however something that would be possible in the future if each section gave the number of trophies to be engraved so that costs could be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

PK raised the question of what was a reasonable balance for the club to carry forward each year bearing in mind the current state of our finances. He had worked out that for the coming year if each of the County teams reached the finals of their competitions the balance of our account would still be about £7k and was this to be an uncomfortable amount to be carrying forward. KPB was more conservative in his estimate of the likely sum carried forward at the end of the year and it was agreed to reflect on this question at the next meeting.

RS had spent some time considering the format for the Eric Felgate Trophy and had presented his thoughts in his Competition Secretary's Report above. After some discussion it was agreed that for the first year the competition would go ahead in the format suggested but would be reviewed for future years. RS was thanked for his input on this and a provisional date was set for Wed. 8th May.

Matters for Discussion:

The main point of discussion here was a further update on PK's 'Aims and Objectives' presented at the January meeting and now updated. A summary follows:

- Club colours now agreed as: Ladies – Navy Blue tops and Light Blue (Duck Egg) shirts
Men - (Gents and Seniors) – Navy Blue tops and White shirts
- County Competition shirt – BT to speak to Mrs Hunt about this.
- Car Parking. There will be 3 places for the section Captains. The remaining 5 places that can be used on a first come first served basis by any committee member from the three sections.
- Mixed Competitions-all three competition secretaries to liaise more closely on the setup and running of each competition
- New Board trophies – PK will update his paper and share with BT and then bring to next meeting
- Each section to update their own policies and PK will draft and update of the constitution and Gent's policies
- Finance- We look to go forward with a unified approach to our processes
- Any suggested changes to the format of an existing board competition should be presented to the club committee for approval
- PK to speak to Richard Rhodes re camera solution for 5th fairway (see earlier note)
- Hole in one discs – each section to notify RS of names of those to be added
- Club Committee Review (on Aims and Objectives document) to be on the agenda for the next meeting
- Competition entry time review – for discussion at next meeting.

The other item concerning support from the club members for both the Ladies and Gent's Daily Mail Foursomes pairs for their next round matches was also mentioned and some publicity for this was requested.

Health & Safety: No issues raised

Any Other Business: CC asked if the booking time for Mixed Competitions could be changed from 6.45am until 8.00am and was it possible for competition fees to be taken beforehand. PK asked whether booking times could be reviewed at a future meeting. KPB noted that the Club had a number of red sweaters that are no longer in use and wondered if these could be offered for sale. BT agreed to see what was there and make a decision.

100 Club Draw:

- 1 E. Hawkins
- 2 A Frances
- 3 R. Gwillim-Douce

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 13th March, 2024

Don Wellman _____