



Halesworth Golf Club

Gents Committee Meeting: Wednesday 1st April 2026 18.30pm

Ben Townsend BT (Managing Director), Chair - Gerry Jackson (C.C), Rowan Naismith-Robertson (VC), Rob Sherington (F&CS), Colin Hillier (HS), Chris Haslam (T), Jeremy Jenkins (T), Ben Brown (CM), Danny Milne (CM), Paul Coby (CM)

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence –

- Paul Coby, Ben Brown

2. **Minutes:** From Meeting 24th Feb 2026. Accepted and finalised.

3. Matters Arising – Previous Meeting

- none

4. Captains report (GJ)

- Captains drive in update on Charity monies. Total of £3975 was raised and this has been split between the Gents, Seniors and Ladies Captains charities each receiving £1325. This will be sent from the Ladies account by Barbara Dennis
- Looking ahead the Club competitions are now getting underway. Starting with the Thursday League on April 9th – Halesworth Rob v Halesworth Allstars. Then the reverse fixture the following week. Chris Reeves and Chris Haslam are heading the Allstars and Rob the other one.
- First Gents match is away to St Clements on Wednesday April 22nd. 12 players (6 signed up) Reverse Fixture Saturday May 30th. Long standing fixture for the Lag Up Larry trophy, and on Saturday May 23rd we have a home match v Stowmarket, Fourballs with Brunch beforehand at 12pm and first tee at 1pm (9 signed up) need 12 players.
- The Tolly and Hambro teams have their first-round matches on the 12th of April. (Shirts). I'm sure we would all like to wish them well.
- Rowan and I attended the SGU meeting at Stowmarket on Friday 27th March. Also played in the President cup in the morning.

- The main minutes from the SGU AGM can be found on their website. The following point of interest was noted.
- Members may recall that at the 2025 AGM a presentation was given by Tony Pennock (Seckford) on *Fore Get Me Not Golf*, a project supporting people living with dementia and their careers.
- This initiative has since become a flagship project for Suffolk Golf, with interest now extending to the St Andrews Links Trust. The Board agreed to allocate 50% of the England Golf I Golf grant funding (£2,100) to support the project.
- Seckford have started a second session each month. Stowmarket is now fully trained and operational, while Thorpeness is trained and running its first session in April. Southwold hope to run their first session later in the year and Halesworth are currently undergoing training along with Fynn Valley in the planning stage. It is hoped that an additional club may be trained during the year ahead.
- Congratulations are extended to Tony on the success of this project, which Suffolk Golf will continue to support and monitor as it develops nationally.

5. Fixture & Competition Secretary report

Competition Secretary's Report

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

Sunday March 1st – MARCH MEDAL – 60 Entrants

Winner Simon Hunter Net 67

2nd Ben Morris Net 71

3rd Craig Stammers Net 73

Sunday March 8th – NEW CAPTAINS DRIVE IN – 128 Entrants

Winners Paul Coby, Mark Coby, Robbie Ling & Tony Good 124 Pts

2nd Ben Brown, Tony Mardon, Oliver Last & Jon Last 120 Pts OCB

Ed Bowles, Stephen Driver, Bradley Reynolds & Justin Martin 120 Pts

Sunday March 15th – MARCH Stableford – 76 Entrants

Winner Nick Bloom 37 Pts

2nd Peter Last 36 Pts OCB

3rd Rob Sherington 36 Pts

Sunday March 22nd – Gents Foursomes – 64 Entrants

Winners Troy Wilson & Mark Swallow Net 70

2nd Bob Judd & Paddy Cole Net 71

3rd Stephen Brown & Liam O'Donovan Net 72

Sunday March 29th – SHERWOOD BOGEY – 79 Entrants

Winner Stephen Boothby 4 UP

2nd Paul Sherwood 3 Up

3rd Lee Adams 2 Up

Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - Current Leader Oliver Last 51 Pts 2nd Daniel Collet 40 Pts 3rd Stephen Driver 37 Pts

Gents WINTER Eclectic – WINNER Ben Morris Net 58 2nd Oliver Last Net 59 3rd Lee Adams Net 59

Autumn Knockouts – Winter Singles WINNER Bradley Reynolds, Runner-Up Stephen Boothby. Winter Foursomes semi finals Danny Milne & Paul Coby v Gary Slaymaker & Ian Stannard and Jon Last & Nick Bloom are awaiting their opponents – **Why has this NOT BEEN PLAYED??**.

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Friday April 3rd – IAN RANSBY TROPHY
- Sunday April 5th – Monthly MEDAL
- Sunday April 12th – TOLLY TEAM Match v Brett Vale
- Sunday April 19th – ANNIVERSARY CUP
- Sunday April 26th – QUEEN ELIZABETH CUP
- Sunday May 3rd – GENTS SPRING TROPHY – Tee Slots in Handicap Order
- Sunday May 10th – GENTS INVITATION DAY – Need to set up Shotgun Start – Ladies tee times need removing

Rob Sherington

6. HCP secretary Report: Colin hillier

Handicap Committee Report – 1st April 2026

1. Penalty Scores

No penalty scores have been added since the last meeting.

2. Soft Cap / Hard Cap Update

Under WHS guidelines, soft and hard caps help moderate significant increases in handicap.

- 41 members currently have the soft cap active
- 1 member has the hard cap active

The member with 'hard cap' enabled has been checked.

All other cases have been reviewed and all members are playing a sufficient number of competition rounds.

3. Competition vs General Play Analysis

The monthly "Competition vs General Play" report identifies discrepancies between competition and general play scores.

- No member currently exceeds the committee's threshold requiring formal handicap review.
- The report has also been produced in reversed conditions to identify any player who may be struggling to play to the handicap they currently have. No members were identified using the criteria.

4. General Play Scores

This report lists all 'General Play' scores submitted in any stated period. It gives information on the time the score intent was downloaded, when the score was added and finalised, and also when the score was attested.

General Play score intent should be stated BEFORE starting a round. Using this report, I will contact people whose General Play scores and times do not match the required. This can also identify where a player potentially has not actually played the round of golf. If the download intent and score and attesting are all very close in time they could have visited that club and simply created scores whilst on the premises. This would be impossible to prove but once a player has been informed that they have breached the rules previously, and that it will be monitored moving forward, the issue should stop. If they continue incorrectly adding General Play scores, then we can add Penalty Scores to their handicap record.

5. Deleted Score Intent

This report shows when a player has downloaded a score intent to play a round to be added to their handicap but they have then deleted it. This can be when they are playing badly and don't want the score to adversely affect their handicap, it can also be for a genuine reason.

Using this report will identify when this happens and then show if a member repeatedly does this. We can then contact the member for clarification on the reason given and also inform them if they have deleted the score intent for an invalid reason.

6. Summary

The club's handicap data remains stable.

Key actions moving forward include improving IG score-entry support, continued monitoring of soft-cap members, refining Competition vs General Play reporting, and increasing communication around WHS rules.

These items will be reviewed again at the next committee meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report (CHs, JJ) CH reported the accounts are all in order.

8. Club Updates: Ben Townsend

- Dear Members,

I am writing to provide you with an update on several key projects at Halesworth Golf, reflecting our ongoing commitment to enhancing the course and our club facilities.

- **New Shoe Cleaning Station:** Now fully operational and ready for use.
- **Lakeside Landscaping:** We've recently planted semi-mature trees around the lake, beautifully softening the landscape and enhancing the course's natural aesthetics.
- **Putting Green Improvements:** In August, we will begin the installation of a new drainage system for the putting green. This essential work will ensure the green remains playable and in excellent condition throughout the entire year. We will confirm the specific commencement dates as soon as the schedule is finalised.

Infrastructure & Facilities

Gym, Swing Studio & Greenkeeping Hub

I am delighted to announce that planning permission has been granted to convert the current greenkeepers' store into a modern gym, which will include an extension for a state-of-the-art swing studio.

Regarding our operational infrastructure, we expect a planning decision next week on a new, **centralised Greenkeeping Building** at Mells Court Farm. Moving our team to the heart of the course will drastically improve efficiency, reduce machinery transit times, and allow for faster response to course conditions. Modernising this infrastructure also ensures a safer, more productive environment for our hardworking staff.

Halfway House & Refreshments

To prioritise these major developments, the permanent halfway house project is on hold. However, we have a **converted coffee van** arriving for the summer! It's a great addition to the course and on busy days it will be serving all your favourite snacks and drinks.

These investments represent an incredibly exciting period for Halesworth Golf. Our focus remains on creating a modern, multi-purpose club with premier golf and fitness facilities, while ensuring long-term financial stability for the benefit of all members.

I look forward to updating you further once the final planning outcomes are confirmed.

Ben Townsend

- Social events:-
- Saturday 11th April is the Quiz night run by Dave Tower
- Friday May 1st. Restaurant Evening
- Saturday May 2nd is Live Music night with Full9Yards performing
- Saturday June 6th Terrace BBQ and Music

9. Matters for discussion

- **Proposal to Trial Four ball Competitions (CH, RNS)**
 - It was agreed to take data from 3 ball comps and 4 ball comps of the starting and finishing times. Also 4 balls with Tee times of 12min intervals will be trialled.
- **Saturday Roll up, Reserved Tee times. (RNS)**

This was discussed and the format for Saturdays will remain the same, although RS said that an open to all Stableford comp could be reinstated once a month.
- **Complaints and queries from members.**

1. Tee times appear to have been prebooked for competitions before 06:45 for competitions. Should this be happening and can we tell if this has been done on the system?
RS will investigate and prevent form happening again.
2. Members have voiced a displeasure with the investment in a gym when they feel that there is a Lack of investment on the main course. (BT) This was acknowledged and it was again stated that the Gym is a separate issue to the golf course. It is a private business adventure that would bring enhancement to the Golf club.
3. Members have asked for an official update on the halfway house and feel this has not been communicated. (BT) An email will be sent out updating the status of the Halfway house.
4. Ladies on Sunday asked about the alignment of competitions. They are very happy that the trails are going ahead from 05/04. They were wondering how they would know if it is a mixed entry competition? Also are trophy comps that are the same format going to be considered for mixed entries. (GJ) Discussions between the Gents and Ladies will take place to align competitions with the same format. This will be made clear on IG when booking competition Tee times.
5. Ladies can currently book a comp 3 weeks ahead and the men can only do 2 weeks has this been considered for the mixed entry comps. (RS) Will make no difference as the Competitions that both Gents and Ladies can book Tee times will only be open 2 weeks in advance.

10. Health & Safety:

11. A.O.B

12. Next meeting date: 10th June 2026 at 18.30pm