

Halesworth Golf General Committee Meeting, Wednesday 17th November 2021

Minutes of the Meeting:

Ben Townsend – Club Manager (BT)
Richard Davies – Club Professional (RD)
Rob Sherington – Club Captain & Competition Secretary (RS)
Caroline Emeny – Ladies' Captain (CE)
Lynda Baldry – Ladies' Vice-Captain (LB)
John Clatworthy – Past Captain (JC)
Tom Fletcher – Seniors' Captain (TF)
Robert Steven – Handicap Secretary (RSt)
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer (KPB)
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

Apologies: Paul Kent

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes were agreed to be an accurate summary of the meeting.

Matters Arising: The artificial grass for the tees on the Valley Course has arrived and will be installed shortly. RS thanked members for the updated list of names for the Presentation Evening and checked with BT that Mark Coby was happy with the proposed "Greens Advisory Group" proposed by him at the last meeting. BT had spoken to Mark who was happy with the arrangement provided the group kept to the original agreement of observations and suggestions only. The new shirts for club matches were briefly discussed with the suggestion that they might be light blue (to the dismay of TF who favoured Evertonian royal blue!) but a final decision has yet to be made. RD kindly agreed to source a selection of possible shirts from the suppliers.

RS will contact Charlie Wilderspin at Suffolk Golf concerning the proposal put forward by JC at the previous meeting for alternate home and away venues for County Matches.

Club Update: BT explained that the problem with the club telephone system had now been resolved by British Telecom and that a new coffee machine in the bar would be operational shortly replacing the previous now outdated machine known affectionately, for reasons unknown, as "Shirley". 40 tickets had been sold for New Year's Eve at the club with the expectation that this number would grow to 80 by the end of the month with members encouraged to buy a ticket. The new membership price list for 2022 would be sent to members shortly with fees increased only marginally (£20) from 2021 and remaining the same in most categories. The 22 to 29 years old membership has been split into 22 to 25 years and 26 to 29 years to further encourage younger players to join the club. The club remains one of the least expensive in the area with the owners feeling that they are supporting the local community as well as running a business. There remains a cap on membership at about 500 with the feeling that this is an ideal number for a club of this size. RS then mentioned the Turkey Trot on Sunday 12th Dec. and the newly named 'Sherington Front of House Shield' on 19th Dec. The Turkey Trot would have teams of mixed handicaps drawn by the organisers in order to integrate members whereas the Front of House Shield gave members the opportunity to pick their own playing partners. The Greenkeepers Cup was, as before, open to all members and would be played on Friday, 26th Nov. with all proceeds going to the greenkeeping staff as a thank you for their work during the year.

Lady Captain's Report: With the mild weather over the last few days, golf has taken another turn in terms of playing conditions and the course is playing well thanks to the hard work of the greenkeeping staff.

Things are starting to wind down as the golf season is well and truly over but this gives us ladies the opportunity to host some fun competitions and to mix people up so they meet and play with other ladies. We also have a good number of new ladies who have been made to feel welcome and are already playing in qualifiers and other competitions.

Competition Winners since the last report:

October Stableford:

Silver Division 1st Sian Tutak 36 points, 2nd Rita Fossey 32 points, 3rd Clare Woods 31 points
Bronze Division: 1st Maggie Bennett 33 points, 2nd Ged Moreton 31 points, 3rd Linda Freeman 29 points
Berendt Rose Bowl: Winner Maggie Bennett, runner up Rita Fossey

Daily Mail Foursomes:

Winners Sonia Lord and Cathy Chandler will go through to the regional knockouts.

November Medal:

Silver Division 1st Clare Woods nett 71, 2nd Sara Higgins nett 73, 3rd Barbara Dennis nett 74

Bronze Division: 1st Cathy Chandler nett 69, 2nd Joanne Taylor nett 73, 3rd Sonia Lord nett 79

Our ladies have played the last of their winter league matches earlier this week with a 4/2 win against Gorleston at home. All results go through to the hosts for collating the winning overall results of this 2-yearly competition.

Last of all I want to mention the resounding success we had with our first Lady Captains Open at the end of October which was the Spooktacular. It was simply fantastic, from the decorated 1st / 11th tee boxes, to the haunted halfway house and the costumes by the entrants. The number of wonderful comments we had both on and after the day was so pleasing – from the state of the course which looked magnificent, to the catering and the whole event management. My team have been thanked for all their input and help into this as it **IS** very much a team effort. We made £1000 for Bowel Cancer UK on that day alone, simply spectacular!

Captain's Report: The course looks in terrific condition, with the rough now cut back it really shows how the trees are beginning to establish themselves so well all round the course. Work on the greens continues but as always, they run well if not sometimes a little slow - well done to Mark and his team.

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

I continue to talk to as many visitors as possible especially when they are indulging in our superb dining facilities! along with new members as well as play golf with as many different members as possible to try to get to know them all.

I have decided to put up the shield for the '**Sherington' Front of House Shield** competition which is scheduled to take place on Sunday December 19th. This will be a Texas Scramble competition 1/8 of combined Team Course Handicap as an allowance to ensure it is as fair as possible to all members whatever their handicap. All money from this will be given to our superb front of house team as a thank you for all their work over the past year in serving us all so well.

I look forward to the AGM on Friday December 3rd along with Presentation Evening that will follow hopefully attendance to both will be good.

Seniors' Captain Report: The Seniors Captains' Away Day (2020 and 2021 Captains) took place at Haverhill Golf Course on 22nd October. There was a very good turnout for an enjoyable round at a course where we do not play in the inter-club matches.

There have been two trophy competitions in the last month: the Gilson Wright Salver on 26th October (won by Mike Hayes) and the Holton Shield (won by Paul Sherwood and Andrew Frances).

The final inter-club match took place on 27th October at home. The Halesworth team won. Once again, there was exceptional service and a great meal supplied by Ellie and the team.

The Seniors 2020/2021 Winter League matches starts on 17 November, with a home game against Diss. Future matches include Bungay (away on 2nd December), Southwold (home on 8th December) and Caldecott Hall (home on 19th January).

The final Seniors qualifier of the year off white tees took place on 16 November. Winter qualifiers will be played off yellow tees. The exceptions are the Medal of Medals and Stableford of Stableford competitions, which will remain off white tees.

Winter block bookings start on 1 December, with Tuesdays becoming 0800-0930 and Fridays 0900-1030. The Seniors section continues to work with Richard and Alistair and will continue to review timings and take up of tee times during the winter period.

The Seniors AGM has been called for 3rd December. A Seniors committee meeting will be held on 18th November to consider Seniors' policy for 2022 in preparation for the AGM. Topics for discussion, which are provided by Paul Kent, include: -

- 1) 2021 has been a year of transition: where do we go from here with IG, WHS & COVID planning?
- 2) Plans for an increase in Qualifiers required for Trophy competitions, to be agreed by the Seniors committee.
- 3) Uniformity for Seniors match attire now we will have sponsored shirts provided and club jumpers available on loan
- 4) Plans for supporting roles in the Seniors management team
- 5) End of spreadsheets and new method for taking competition fees, which is to collect on the day of the competition, after play. Most likely to be introduced in January 2022.

Issues related to Qualifiers will consider any further recommendations from the Handicap Committee planned for 17 November.

The Seniors Christmas Dinner will be on 17th December. It looks like there will be a very good turn out from the numbers that have signed up so far. There will be a prize giving to cover both 2020 and 2021 competitions. Prizes will be inscribed glassware prepared by Lesley King.

The Greenkeepers are to be congratulated on a remarkable job preparing the course for winter and there should be a good turnout for the Greenkeepers cup on 26th November when we can all show our appreciation.

Bunkers have been well prepared by the greenkeepers; however, it has been observed that they are not being raked properly by some players. Members may need to be advised of the policy concerning use of rakes after playing out of the bunker. In addition, rakes are being left close and parallel to the edge of bunkers, which means that balls entering the bunker can be held up close to the rim, possibly in an unplayable position.

Unfortunately, Paul Kent is currently unwell and is not able to attend meetings for a while, although he is giving guidance on decision making. Paul takes over as Seniors Captain on 3 December, but he may not be able to attend the Seniors AGM due to family commitments. While we are waiting for Paul to return, I will continue to support competitions, meetings and any other Seniors' golfing issues that may arise, while of course keeping the Seniors Vice Captain designate John Ashton in the loop.

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

Sunday 24th October **October Stableford – 76 Entrants**
Winner Stuart Armes 40 Pts 2nd Wayne Jacques 38 Pts 3rd Stuart King 38 Pts

Sunday 31st October **Additional Greensomes – 48 Entrants – Appalling Weather Conditions**
Winners Richard Doddington & Spike Dutton Net 72, 2nd Daniel Brown & Lee Warren Net 73, 3rd Mark & Paul Coby Net 73

Sunday 7th November **Ian Ransby Trophy (Medal) – 73 Entrants**
Winner Paul Raynes Net 67, 2nd Billy Thurston Net 69, 3rd Brett Lockwood Net 71

Sunday 14th November **Richard Handley Cup (Stableford) – 77 Entrants**
Winner Daniel Brown 44 Pts 2nd Mark Coby 44 Pts (**off 7 Net 71 Special award given due to low score**) 3rd Brett Lockwood 43 Pts

- **Winter Singles 27 Players and Foursomes 46 Players** - draws have been made and matches now taking place.

Player of the Year: - This runs until October 31st

Winner Tom Feveyear

Gents Summer Eclectic – This was VERY CLOSE at the top

Winner Net 50 Sam Borrett

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Sunday 21st November Gents Monthly Medal
- Sunday 28th November Gents Monthly Stableford
- Sunday 5th December Gents Monthly Medal
- Sunday 12th December Club Turkey Trot – 8.30am Shotgun Start
- Sunday 19th December 'Sherington' Front of House Shield – Texas Scramble
- Monday 27th December Gents Monthly Stableford

Finally – I am in the still in the process of finalising a document detailing the **Men's 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.

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

Current Account £9,231.22

Deposit Account £2,470.16

The accounts however show that the available money at the club after deducting (potential) liabilities is £3,831.74 as it is shown on the draft accounts tabled.

A circular is being sent to all members to encourage membership of the 100 Club

KPB went on to explain the entries in his draft accounts for the year to be made available at the upcoming AGM.

He explained that should our teams do well in the 2022 County Competitions we might need to draw some money from the Sunday Competition entry fees by reducing the prize money pay outs as the Committee had agreed to pay the green fees for the practice rounds required which were being raised to £25 per player in 2022. A good run by our teams in the County Competitions would result in a considerable drain on our resources.

KPB requested that in future that the charity money previously held in the main account be removed and placed in a separate charity account. This would make the club accounts easier to interpret and the proposal was readily agreed by the Committee.

Handicap Secretary's Report :

_Name	Handicap Index
Danny Gibbons	22.1
Stuart Holmes	22.6
Neil Jordan	23.0
John Pamment	32.8

1. General Play Scores

1. A total of 224 General Play scores were entered by Halesworth members through IG during October 2021, down from 247 the previous month. A further 42 were entered directly onto the WHS platform using the MyEG app, down from 53 in September.

2. Annual Review

1. The Gents Handicap Committee will hold its Annual Review after the Club Committee Meeting on 17th November, following the England Golf guidelines summarised in the October Handicap Secretary Report

3. Handicap Secretary Routine Tasks

1. I've updated the list of handicap secretarial duties (previously listed in the draft job description) ready to pass on to those who will follow.

4. England Golf Introduce Automatic Penalty for unsatisfied General Play scores

1. Effective November 29, England Golf is introducing a process that will automatically apply penalty scores where pre-registered general play scores are "not returned within an acceptable time".
2. This will apply to scores registered using the MyEg app but England Golf states that it will also apply to General Play scores entered "in your club software".
 1. This functionality of course does not yet exist in IG and it will be interesting to see how this is implemented because currently incomplete "in progress" pre-registered general play scores in IG are by definition not forwarded to the WHS platform. There is no existing mechanism in IG for a player to resolve whatever issue is preventing their general play score from becoming finalised. The problem might be a technical glitch rather than a player willfully choosing not to submit their score but irrespectively this can currently only be resolved by Admin intervention.
3. Since the welcome intention of this new initiative is to reduce the heavy burden that has fallen on club Handicap Committees to chase unsatisfied scores we can only hope that the implementation by EG and IG delivers on this goal.
4. Earlier this year I asked Charlie Wilderspin, Suffolk Golf Union Secretary, what a penalty score should comprise. He consulted England Golf. This was the reply in the event of failure to submit a registered general play score.
 1. "A penalty score should either be equal to the best score in the record (if the player's actions are trying to gain an advantage by increasing their handicap) or a score equal to their current handicap index, (if player is trying to manipulate their handicap downwards)"
 1. Since England Golf are now implementing an automated process they may have to come up with some other 'neutral' penalty score formulation as it will surely be difficult for an algorithm to decipher the intent behind a failure to finalise.
5. Subject to the committee's agreement I propose we should forward the following message issued by England Golf on November 12th to all members (with a handicap?) (perhaps in an abridged form?) though we may want to wait until we know how IG will handle this. Or we could post it now and then issue a follow up once we know how IG will operate.

"As the number of general play scores continues to increase, we are passing on this England Golf message to remind you of golfers' responsibilities when it comes to returning a score from general play.

- *As well as following the Rules of Golf, you are expected to act with integrity by following the Rules of Handicapping and to refrain from using or circumventing the Rules of Handicapping for the purposes of gaining an unfair advantage.*
- *You are expected, when returning a score for handicap purposes, to have pre-registered that score intent as a general play score prior to play or ensured that you have entered any competition in the required manner.*

- *When retuning a score, you are expected to complete the round and attempt to make the best score possible at each hole.*
- *Submit any pre-registered rounds or competition scores as soon as possible after the competition of play.*
- *Ensure that all rounds for handicap purposes follow the Rules of Golf and are played from a measured course.*
- *Ensure that you certify any score submissions you have witnessed as soon as possible.*

From 29 November, any general play scores that are pre-registered by the MyEG App or your golf club's software that are not returned within an acceptable period will be designated as a penalty score within your handicap record.

It is in your best interest to ensure that any scores that are pre-registered are returned as soon as possible. Should you have any issues submitting your score or have a reason why the score cannot be submitted, you should speak to your Club Handicap Committee, who can act on the information you provide.

As part of this new process, should your score not be submitted you will receive a reminder email asking you to complete the process or contact your club. If you do not act, an automated penalty score will be applied to your handicap record, which could adjust your handicap upwards or downwards.

Clubs can review the application of automatically applied penalty scores. However, it is at their discretion if changes are made."

Following the reports a number of additional comments were made by Committee members. TF stated that at the upcoming Seniors' Committee they would be discussing ways in which to keep competitions fair for all with particular reference to players' handicaps and the number of qualifying rounds needed to qualify for a Seniors' trophy. He also mentioned the positions in which rakes were sometimes left in bunkers and suggested the possibility of a rake frame in which to place the rakes after use as seen at some other courses. BT promised to look into this as a possibility for the future after consultation with Mark Coby. TF was putting together a handover document for forthcoming Seniors' Captains and would provide short term cover for PK during his present illness.

CE commented on the continuing favourable comments about the course from visiting players and referred particularly to their observations of how friendly the club membership was when welcoming visiting players.

RSt referred to the penalty score proposals put forward by EG in his report and suggested the possibility of an abridged version of this going out to members. After a brief further discussion it was decided to wait for IG to decide how they might implement this before contacting members directly.

Matters for Discussion: RS was happy with the arrangements for the AGM and Presentation Evening but requested some help on the night. It was agreed that CE and TF would present the prizes and trophies leaving RS to introduce each of the prize winners. RD agreed to send out a reminder to all prize winners for the need to attend on the evening.

Health and Safety: No matters raised.

AOB: RSt was thanked by the Committee for his work over the last five years as Handicap Secretary with particular reference to his herculean efforts in coming to terms with WHS and for all the time he has spent in helping and supporting the Committee and the membership in its implementation. We are in a much better place going forward because of all the conscientious work that he has done on our behalf. It was also the last meeting for TF and JC both of whom expressed their thanks to the Committee. The efforts of all the retiring Committee members will doubtless be remembered at the AGM.

LB mentioned the unrepaired pitch marks on many of the greens and it was thought that a reminder to members about this, now that the ground is much softer, would be appropriate.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 19th January at 7.00pm

Don Wellman

