



Halesworth Golf Club
General Club Committee Minutes
Tuesday, 16th Sept, 2025

Present – Ben Townsend (Managing Director), Paul Kent (Club Captain), Gerry Jackson (Club Vice Captain), Barbara Dennis (Ladies Captain) Viv Leech (Ladies Vice Captain), Dave Tower (Seniors Captain) Paul Smith (Seniors Vice Captain)

1. Minutes from the last Meeting – agreed.

2. Matters Arising – update

- Open comps on a Sunday 2026 (Gerry Jackson). GJ has purchased a trophy for the Sunday mixed trophy. The Halesworth Harmony Cup 31st May 2026.
- 100 club flyer update & division of funds (Ben Townsend). Update today – KPB has signed off. Posters and website updated alongside newsletter.
AP KPB to confirm amounts due to each section. AP BT to add monthly winners to newsletter
- How members access minutes (Ben Townsend). **AP BT hard copies to be put on noticeboard**
- Committee v committee match – Proposal Captains. **AP Captains to proposed by Nov meeting**
- Seniors Past Captains event – discussion with DT over viability of this competition, Seniors Section to discuss and decide

3. Club Update Ben T.

- Golf Pro – Ben Jewell (PGA America). Visa changes meant a return. Advert out for assistant but not proactively looking at this time. Evaluation of need over autumn.

- 1st Hole on Valley – pond where chalk found – therefore deeper than planned. Need dry weather to complete
- Hand rails on bridge between 4th & 5th holes.
- Integrated credit card machine to prevent further identity mistakes in bar.
- Pro availability will be on IG in near future
- Gym – Move greenkeepers to sun club area. Building for GYM will be old greenkeepers area by next March. Subject to planning permission. Discounted membership for golfers.
- Halfway House update – current work has delayed slightly by other work but will happen.
- Simulators and swing rooms have been looked at. Possibly stage 2 developments.
- Slope rating – 9-hole course completed with both for both men & ladies off Yellow & Reds. 18 holes was only White & Yellow & Reds for Gents only Reds for ladies. BT has asked for it to be done for Ladies off White & Yellow.
- Stroke Index – not able to do at the moment
- Preferred lies – still current.
- Junior Membership – have hit the 100 number.
- Mike Rees – will be offering a fun rules night for juniors.
- 15.11.25 – Quiz night.
- Norfolk Alliance – 8th October – over 100 players. PK will attend.
- Course top dressed & seeded etc
- New flags ordered and be on course by weekend

4. Captains Reports

Club Captains Report

16th September 2025

Since the last Gents Committee Meeting on 20.08.25 –

1. I continue to note the different players I play golf with throughout my second term as captain. This is to a) demonstrate the variance of players I join during my year as captain b) ensure I interact with as many members I can during the year and c) be ‘visible’ as captain to as many members as possible. Since the AGM I have accompanied **93** different players on the course. I continue to seek opinion about the club and course in general.

2. **Captains’ duties this month have included –**

- 20.08.25 – chaired the Gents initial Committee meeting
- 22.08.25 – played in the Seniors Championship

- 25.08.25 – assisted Colin Aldous with the Suffolk Punch Day
- 28.08.25 – met with Gerry J & Ben T re fixtures for 2026
- 29.08.26 – played in the Pear Tree Fund Charity Day
- 03.09.15 – captained the Gents team away to St Clements

1. **Gents initial Committee meeting** – very good start to the new format meeting. Joined by Paul Coby, Ben Brown & Chris Haslam (apologies from Danny Milne) as invited guests to engage with younger & lower handicap members. Decided on format of questions for Gents survey & new template for committee member nominations (blank rather than pre-populated). Issue with build-up of surplus once again discussed at length linked to fees & prize allocation.
2. **Handicaps.** As chair of the Handicap committee, I concurred with our handicap secretary Colin Hillier, that there was no need for the usual quarterly meeting as there were no issues that needed discussion.
3. **Finances.** We endeavour to upgrade our reporting system and make it more easily accessible and understandable to our members, on a monthly basis.
4. **Suffolk Golf Union** – I have been invited to make the draw for next year's five Suffolk County Competitions on 19.09.25. I have spoken to the Secretary of the SGU with regards neutral venues and been advised to bring to 2026 AGM for a further discussion and potential vote. I shared the data I had collated re home draw recipients dominating the semi-final places across all five competitions.
5. **Suffolk Past Golf Captains** - I will be attending the Autumn meeting, held at Halesworth on 19th September.
6. **Junior's section – added to this report to ensure its captured in minutes - ** Report provided by Jeremy Jenkins on 22.08.25**

Junior Update August 2025: How do we Do It!

- We currently have **98** junior members, 39 with handicaps, which is a fantastic achievement and growth is continuing. What have been the drivers behind this increase; well as always it is no individual action or person. Below is a summary of what we do, have done and will do to promote the growth of Junior Golf at the Club.
- **Friendlies.** Matches have been completed v Woodbridge, Bungay and Rookery with Rookery and Sprowston (home and away) before

the end of October. Seniors v Juniors v Ladies v Juniors Plate, Been running for 3 years with Juniors narrowly winning the recent match v the seniors by one hole. Juniors v Ladies 20th August.

- **Competitions.** It is vital we provide the juniors with their own competitions, and we keep them busy! In addition to the above we have, our Junior Open, Summer Texas Scramble, Summer Knockout, Order of Merit, Sweeny Cup, the Buxted Bogey, and the Williams Cup.
- **Fun Competitions.** We ensure all the junior members can participate in competitions and we have begun to run fun events on the 9 hole for those with high or no handicaps, lots of prizes, goodie bags.
- **Schools.** We have been coaching at Wenhaston Primary since mid 2024, have recently completed a 6-session program with Harleston Secondary and are part through a 6-session program with Bungay High.
- **GolfSixes.** This is a series of matches v local clubs for players with a maximum handicap of 37 or no handicap, played off forward tees in a 3-ball Texas Scramble format. Competing clubs are Bungay, Gorleston, Diss, Rookery and Dunston, and we are currently top of the 2025 table
- **Open Days.** These are open to local children and are run 2/3 times a year dependant on weather. Up to 50 participants, with parents, have attended, fun activities, drinks and snacks provided.
- **Coaching.** Included in the Junior Membership are coaching sessions. In 2025 these have been extended to 4 sessions on a Saturday and 2 on a Wednesday with the number of months extended to run from April to November
- **Facilities.** Compared to the other local clubs we offer a defined pathway for the juniors, progressing from driving range/putting/chipping to 9 hole to 18 hole.

- **Junior Fund.** The coaching sessions are funded out of the junior membership fees. The generosity of our members via Paul's Junior Fund enables us to provide many of the above.
- **Adult Competitions.** We have a very welcoming membership which has resulted in many of the juniors competing in the adult competitions with some success! Thanks are extended to the members who make the juniors feel comfortable on the course and clubhouse.
- **Support and Mentoring.** We have begun a mentoring program to aid the Juniors in getting around the course in a timely manner, etiquette and basic rules. On Saturdays we take those who are handicap ready around the 9-hole course to mark their card, once they have completed 54 holes, 6 x 9, 3 x 18 they will get a handicap.
- **Volunteers.** As stated previously our members and their families are supportive, and thanks goes to Neil Coby, Steve Ward, Joy Staunton, Corrina Thubron, for their time given in support of the development of Junior Golf. Apologies if I have missed anyone out!

Jeremy Jenkins.

7. **Juniors Fund** – more clubs donated (thank you so much) recently and this fund continues to grow. (now over £2,500) This is to be managed carefully so Juniors have access to it over a long period of time. Junior club shirts are now available for loan - for those representing the club.
8. **Charity** – I'm delighted that both the Dementia Day & Suffolk Punch Day were both successful events recently. Jeremy has kindly offered some of the proceeds of a forthcoming race night to my chosen charity the Suffolk Young Carers group.
9. **Gents matches** – one match this month.
 - Away defeat (3-2) at St Clements but close matches overall.
 - Have one more match which concludes our season.
 - Gerry is liaising with clubs to set up next year's fixtures.

10. Trophies. – I will eventually find time to upload all the Trophy photographs to go alongside competition enhanced details.

11. Greenkeepers – pick & place remains available. Great to see the development of the new pond alongside the 1st on the Valley course. Also, the bridge below the 4th has made it much safer and dryer for members to get to the 5th & 8th tee boxes. Our continued thanks to Mark and his team for battling against very challenging conditions to maintain the course to such a high standard. Visitors feedback remains very positive.

12. Halesworth Golf Pro-Am – still liaising with Sizewell & some local companies identified re some sponsorship for planned event next year.

13. Gents AWAY DAY – unfortunately Stowmarket's committee meeting was cancelled so they cannot consider a tee switch until their September meeting, so difficult to see this now happening this year.

14. Main item for discussion –

*Matters raised with me, by members, since my re-election as Captain continue to be contained within this report

- Communication – some have felt club could have clarified & updated, without too much detail, recent staff changes

Captains Diary Sept / October 2025

06.09.25 – Chair the Club Committee meeting
19.09.25 – SGU County Competitions 2026 draw
19.09.25 – Suffolk Past Captains event
27.09.25 – Home match v St Clements
05.10.25 – Joint Captains Charity Day
08.10.25 – Joining Norfolk Alliance day.
15.10.25 – Chairing Gents Committee meeting.

Paul Kent
Halesworth Golf Club Captain 2025.

Lady Captain Report – August 2025

August already – wow.... summer nearly over already. The course although beginning to green up still has “Preferred Lies” but for how long is another matter.

Our Greenkeepers should be thanked for keeping on top of the unexpected weather we seem to experience this year. From extremely dry to stormy days. The main feature to mention this month is the construction of the bridge between the 4th Green and the 5th Tee. No longer do we need to take our lives in our hands going via the road – no more flooded road to navigate either. This took precedence over the start of the halfway house which we fully understand and appreciate. I do not have any update as yet on the halfway house but as soon as I do I will advise everyone.

For one lady in particular, our very own Vice Captain Viv Leech, the month started with an amazing win at Brett Vale in the Suffolk Senior Ladies Handicap Match Play Championship. Congratulations Viv we know how hard you work on your golf and it has paid off. Awesome.

On the 7th August, Viv and I played as part of the members against Staff match with buffet afterwards. A lovely afternoon getting to know more staff and seeing some great golf along the way too. Not surprising though the Staff team won overall. I might add that both Lesley and David King were playing on the staff team – hmmm.

The Mixed Open took place on the 16th August – There were 45 teams in total. The winners

1st	Penny Summers (Bramford) & Steve Summers (Rushmere)	22	23	45	
2nd	Teri Olley (Crondon Park) & Chris Olley (Thorndon Park)	20	24	44	OCB
3rd	Elaine Anderson & Martin Anderson (Stowmarket)	22	22	44	

There was a raffle during the day – thanks must go to Cathy Judd for organising these – which raised £355 on the day to be split between my charity the British Heart Foundation and Paul Kents charity Suffolk Young Carers.

These events don't just happen – Everyone commented on how lovely and well run the day was. Thanks must go to all the volunteers who gave up their time (mainly ladies) to help out from early doors until late. I for one was very appreciative of all your efforts to make it the success it was.

The Ladies Club Championship took place on the 21st August – a lovely day for some great golf. I will let Sara report on the winners. There was some great golf played along the way – 18 holes for the Senior Championship and 36 holes for the main Club Championship. Congratulations to the trophy winners and also well done to all the ladies who played this year.

There was only one Friendly this month which was the Mixed one played away at Hintlesham. It was a very lovely day – lots of fun and laughter heard around the course ending up with a lovely meal after. Everyone enjoyed the day and as I have said many times this year it is not all about the winning – it's the competitive fun that counts. We lost.

28th August finally saw our Captain v Vice Captain Day – I really thought we wouldn't be doing one this year – but so very thankful that Viv has stepped up to being Vice. Somehow, thanks to Sara, my team were the Captain Dennis RED 'Dare Devils' and Viv's team become Vice Captain Leech GREEN 'Legends'.

Everyone was encouraged to wear either red or green or a combination of the two. The Wenhamton room was decorated with red white and green. We were served with Afternoon Tea and tea/coffee. It was very colourful and everyone had a great time. No one knew who they were playing for until lunch where either red or green paper balls were pulled out. It's not been my year for winning so once again I lost to Viv and her Vice-Captain team. But as mentioned before it's not all about the winning.... Lots of memories made along the way.

The month finished off with the annual Peartree Competition which many ladies played in and featured amongst the winners – well done ladies.

Next month we have our Ladies Invitation Day to look forward to and also my Away day being held at Dunston which I am really looking forward to.

Barbara Dennis
Lady Captain 2025

Seniors' Captain's Report: 16th September 2025

The Seniors section continues to thrive, with good participation in competitions and friendly matches.

I am delighted to confirm that Paul Smith has agreed to step in as Vice-Captain, and to stand for Seniors Captain in 2026. He has already convinced Brian Dennis to stand as his Vice-Captain. I am sure that, if elected, both will continue a strong tradition of seniors' captaincy at Halesworth.

Golf and Matches

Our friendly matches continue to be popular. With 8 friendlies left to play, 56 different players have represented us this year. Halesworth continues to be a popular choice of venue with visiting clubs.

We will have played 18 clubs home and away this year, and have added Bawburgh to the rota for next year.

Since the last meeting we have played the following friendly matches:

22 July – Barnham Broom (away) – lost 2-4

29 July – Gorleston (home) – lost 2-4

5 August – Rushmere (home) – won 6-2

11 August – Felixstowe (home) – lost 2-6

19 August – Diss (home) – drew 4-4

26 August – Bungay (away) – lost 1-7

2 September – Woodbridge (away) – drew 3-3

8 September – Hintlesham (away) – won 5-3

10 September – Thorpeness (away) – lost 5.5 – 1.5

15 September – Eaton (away) - TBC

The Parks and Beaumont teams were both unfortunate to lose their semi-finals against strong opposition in Felixstowe and Bramford respectively. Huge kudos to all involved, and particularly team captains Ian Stannard and Rob Sherington.

Congratulations to Seniors Champion Tony Mardon, who won the Gross competition on 22nd August with a score of 109 over the two rounds. Our Nett champion is Gary Slaymaker with a score of 98.

In other trophy and qualifying competitions off white tees since the last meeting, the following were successful:

Stableford	15 th July	Robert West	42 points
Wolfe Cup	18 th July	John Morley	Nett 68
Blyth Trophy	18 th July	Dave Tower	Nett 66
Charity Shield	8 th August	Andy Frances	39 points
Stableford	15 th August	Tom Fletcher	47 points
Medal	5 th September	Jon Last	Nett 70

A Seniors Committee meeting was held on Friday 8th August.

At that meeting, decisions were taken to retain the ongoing system for prize fund allocations and the policy of treating all individual competitions off standard tees as qualifiers.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding funding for county competitions. As a result of the successful campaign from both the Parks and Beaumont teams, seniors' funds have taken a significant hit and will fall below the £2,000 buffer previously agreed. It was agreed that, to regain the buffer, prize monies for future Senior competitions will revert to an 80% pay out for all competitions. It was also agreed that the policy regarding practice rounds and refreshments for County competitions must be complied with in future. A proposal that practice rounds for away matches, a buggy for the team captain (where not provided) and tea/coffee for all matches should be adopted. No food or snacks will be paid for. This policy will be proposed at the next Seniors Committee meeting.

A suggestion that a Past Senior Captain's competition should be instigated was discussed and did not meet with approval, as it was felt that the field would be too small.

Dave Tower
Seniors Captain
16 September 2025

5. Any Issues from other reports –

- DT raised issue of flowers for Corrina Giles following her support of Juniors championship. PK apologised as completely slipped his mind after he delayed as wanted to confirm if she was at RT address. **AP DT will provide Corrina's address to PK and PK to send flowers as thanks.**

6. Matters for Discussion

- Planning – e.g. next quarter diary e.g., competitions, course improvement etc.
 - (see Bens comments above).
 - Club AGM will be on 21st November & presentation.
 - GJ raised the misspelling on several trophies. Agreed we should be looking to put tie on tags for each trophy with spelling in BLOCK to ensure accuracy.
 - Ladies' trophies already in for engraving.
 - Seniors will have theirs done with Gents.
 - Lesley Pyke has agreed to provide glassware for seniors
 - Buffet same cost as last year.
- 19th Dec Seniors xmas dinner
- Ladies 11th Dec xmas dinner
- Ladies committee nomination sheet will be put up 6 weeks prior to their AGM
- Gents committee nomination sheet will be put up now – **AP BT to ensure club print and place in changing rooms**
- Seniors – nomination sheet as Ladies.
- Ben Townsend Trophy – **AP BT to bring details next meeting**
- AGM's planning all in hand.

7. Health and Safety - rails now put up over bridges.

8. Any Other Business

- Competitions during the week of major greenkeeping works. Could we consider having team events (scrambles etc) during this week due to the

variance of playing conditions throughout the competition? It was commented upon that recent traffic lights left the field with very different playing conditions, as sand & top dressing was being applied once greens had dried after 10am. Competition secretaries to consider.

- VL raised Question re closing 9 holes whilst work done? Cost implications. BT felt this was not an option currently.
- GJ raised the potential for Loyalty cards for driving range. Like coffee card but in reverse. Leave prices at minute BT
- DT raised issue of towels being provided in changing rooms, on behalf of seniors. BT not in agreement – cost prohibitive (e.g., purchase, replacement & Laundry costs)

9. Date of Next Meeting 11th November 6.30 pm

P. Kent
Halesworth Golf Club Captain.