



Halesworth Golf Club

Club Committee Meeting: Wednesday 29th July 2026 18.30pm

Ben Townsend BT (Managing Director), Chair - Gerry Jackson (C.C),
Rowan Naismith-Robertson (CVC), Paul Smith (SC), Brian Dennis
(SVC), Viv Leach (LC)

Minutes

- 1. Apologies for absence – Rowan Naismith-Robertson**
- 2. Minutes:** From Meeting Wednesday 27th May. Approved and finalised
- 3. Matters Arising – none**
- 4. Captains report (GJ)**
 - Club Competitions
 - St Clements: Traditional match for the Lag Larry and The Lilly trophy ended in a draw. 15 holes each from the Home and away legs.
 - Away match at Eaton was a one-sided affair losing by 25 holes. The home leg we improved and ended the day all Square
 - Thursday League. The All Stars are still in with a shout of the title as the buffer they had has been eaten away by Bungay Black dogs as The All Stars have been on there 2-week break. With the remaining 2 matches against Caldecott hopes are high for a league win.
 - Penultimate week left the All Stars 1 point ahead of Bungay Black dogs. With a 4-1 home win and Bungay losing 5-0 away at Caldecott the All Stars were crowned Champions by 5 points. The Thursday League ends with the Tony Daniels Trophy played at Caister.
 - The Stenson and Hambro teams have both been in action. Unfortunately, the Hambro team playing at Bungay were knocked out in the Semifinal by Southwold. The Stenson narrowly beaten 7 – 5 in the quarter final away at Stowmarket.
 - The Sunday 4 ball trials continue and will be reviewed at the next Gents committee meeting on Tuesday August 18th.
 - Having been the Starter for the Suffolk Junior competition and the Ladies open. Good to see that both comps were very well supported / well organised and enjoyed by all who took part.

- I will be trying to follow Gary Slaymaker in qualifying for the Seniors and England Captains when playing at Holme Hall GC near Scunthorpe in a couple of weeks.
- After some long days at work and a couple of injuries I look forward to being back playing on a regular basis again.

5. Seniors Captain report (PS) (Attached)

- Seniors Captain's Report. Paul Smith Wednesday 29th July 2026
- As we have moved from the season of floods to that of drought the pace has hotted up with high demand for competitions and trophies as members set their alarms to grab a valued tee time.
- My thanks yet again to all the Committee who have come to my aid in various ways as I enter my cyclopean phase! Seniors' friendlies have come thick and fast but always competitive and enjoyable and once again I am grateful to all those who have stepped into the breach as captains on the day, even if it has stretched our poetic license. So far we have played 25 matches, won 12, lost 7 and halved 6.
- On occasions it has been a struggle to get a full team out and the enigma remains that with a growing Senior membership we still rely on a small hard core of members willing and able to make themselves available for selection. Perhaps we need to win over more souls to the joy of playing in matches?
- No doubt more thought could/should be given to extending the brunches before matches rather than the delayed after match fayre?
- My thanks also to Dave Tower for managing the Beaumont team with his usual enthusiasm and we were unfortunate to lose to Southwold in the third round.
- The Parks team under the astute guidance of Jeremy Jenkin and Ian Stallard are to be congratulated on reaching the semi-finals and we wish them every success in the next round.
- I am delighted by the response to my away day at Gorleston whereby 42 have so far signed up and hopefully will be there on the day. The Captain's Charity Day is set up with a full field and as long as we can avoid the Air Ambulance on the day it should be a successful occasion raising funds for the new Children's Hospital at Addenbrookes.
- I continue to enjoy the challenges of the role of Captain and John's memorable words that "every day is a school day" ring ever truer. Perhaps we should put a watershed limit on the sending of emails but is heartening to know that as a Committee we have the support and encouragement of the majority of the members.

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6. Ladies Captain report (VL) (Attached)

- Wow what a month June turned out to be right from the beginning...1st June saw our Stearn match at Aldeburgh versus Rookery; a great match which we only lost on the 3rd hole of a play off after the match finished 3-3.
- The next Weston match v Thorpeness was a 5-0 win so 3 played & 3 won. Unfortunately..or not .. the next match v Bury at home was cancelled due to the

exceedingly hot weather (in excess of 38 degrees) and re arranged for August 7th. Good captaincy Lesley.

- Next up was the Cranworth, played at Gorleston v Bungay and through the wind and rain the team battled to a great win. Next Diss at Southwold on July 9th.
- On to our third County competition...the Silver Jubilee and some fun and games, once again at Gorleston on 17th June. What initially looked like a great win 3-1 was pulled back to a 2-2 draw as we fielded a player with insufficient qualifying cards. So back to Gorleston for what turned out to be a fantastic professional 'one hole shoot out' by Sally Baxter & Sue Helman. On to the next round on 15th July.
- For me personally, and most definitely for the section, the best thing to happen this month, was Mandys announcement that she was willing to step up and be my Vice Captain. She is the calming influence I need and I know she will prove to be both a fantastic VC & going forward a fantastic Captain. Thanks Mandy.
- The Air Ambulance again attracted a large field and I know Gary & Ian were very grateful to Barbara for stepping up to help out.
- The final County competition this month was the Haskell. The competition is played by the lowest handicap players of each club. Played by Sara & Rita at Stowmarket for the 3rd year running and this year after a grueling 37 holes they came out on top both were emotionally and physically shattered. A fantastic result lady, well played, next will be Gorleston at home ...finally a home match. Good luck.
- With regard to the friendly matches, this month we had 2 ladies ones- away to Bawburgh resulting in a 2-2 draw and away to Ufford Park where we suffered a 4-0 loss. Unfortunately, the mixed matches were both cancelled- Thorpeness where we couldn't field a full team & Diss where they couldn't. Going forward maybe a new format needs to be discussed such as a tri game combination?
- Finally, I'd like to close with congratulating both Mandy Wickison & Sara Higgins for achieving Hole in Ones- Mandy on the 2nd at Halesworth on 28th May & Sara (her first) at the Burnham on Crouch Open on 29th June. Well done ladies.

7. Club Updates (BT) (Attached)

- The Pear tree charity day on Friday 28th August – still looking for some volunteers, IG, scoring, spotters etc.
- The Seniors, Ladies and Junior Open Competitions held over the last few weeks where a great success, all well attended Ben thanked all the volunteers ensuring these went well. There was great feedback from competitors.
- New junior comp, Suffolk Pairs Junior Open – September 19th, in conjunction with Mizuno and Suffolk Golf Union
- Junior golf open day end of September/early October – poster being finalised
- There is a new clubhouse menu.
- The Coffee van – going well. Now with an iPad till for members to use their membership card, opening times on top if IG Tee bookings for members to see when in use
- New Green Keepers building is on track to break ground at the end of August

- · Currently Refurbishing on course - signs, benches, ball washers and huts are getting a makeover.
- · New golf buggies arrived this week. 4 new and one of the old ones being kept as a spare
- · New bunker rakes have been ordered
- · Staff v members match – 19th August – 5pm start – buffet afterwards – please let me know if you would like to play as soon as possible
- · New Fences and gates being put up on the course – bottom of the old drive and down near the road 4th/5th holes
- · Change of closing times from next week, - 7.30pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday
- · Italian night – 14th August, already many tables booked
- · Air ambulance presentation next Friday 7th – landing near 9th green on 9hole, all welcome
- · Ben Townsend Award – nominations, please let me know if you have any names you would like to nominate
- · New large clock has been purchased to go on the outside of the clubhouse overlooking the putting green

8. Matters for discussion

- Ben Townsend thanked everyone for the offer of help for the upcoming Pear Tree charity day.
- The date for the Club AGM is Friday 20th November.

9. Health & Safety: None

10. A.O.B: None

11. Next meeting date: Wednesday 14th October