

BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB
MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 @ 7pm in the Clubhouse

Present:

Chairman – Lynda Ramscar, **Club Captain** – Nigel Saunders **Ladies President** – Terry McCarthy
Professional – Alec Bradley **Course Manager** - John Hart, **Fixtures Sec** – Kev O’Rourke
Secretary & Treasurer – Richard Tasker, **Vice Capt.** – Simon Smith
House & Social – Julian Peckham, **Comps Sec** – Paul Sirrell, **Handicap Sec** – John Dempster
Junior Organiser – Chris Wood, **Senior’s Captain** – Paul Finley
Blankney Estates – Lizzie Taylor

Apologies: none

Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Lizzie Taylor (Blankney Estates executive).

Lizzie Taylor from Blankney Estates – Planning for the Future.

Lizzie advised that Tim Banks was not available to attend tonight’s Committee meeting, but she was here to represent Blankney Estates. The next step in the possible “back to member’s club status” is to seek the advice from Accountants/VAT specialists. A Scottish firm has been appointed to deal with this aspect, and a meeting is scheduled within the next few days. A summary of this meeting should be available for the next Committee meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th April 2023 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Paul Finley and seconded by Kev O’Rourke

Matters arising from the last meeting:

Website Update. – Alec Bradley advised this is still work in progress, with lots of amendments and additions being dealt with. The Committee page is still awaited, along with fine tuning the font colour, Diary, Opens etc. etc.

Clubhouse memorabilia – John Dempster had emailed Blankney Estates with a suggestion on replacing some items back into the clubhouse. Lizzie Taylor had replied with a negative response on any further items going back into the clubhouse main bar, but the entrance area and locker rooms could be considered.

Starters Gazebo – Nige Saunders confirmed it’s primed and ready to use, suggesting its debut is at the Coronation Competition on Bank Holiday Monday. Future use will be for Open Comps and comps using a starter.

Golf Course improvement grant to the Blankney Estates: ongoing discussions to continue. One suggestion was for the previously suggested Information board near the 1st tee. Lizzie Taylor is to enquire if planning permission is needed for such, and if so, to consider other possible locations.

Golf Genius software: It is hoped that this will be introduced by 1st June, when the training has been completed by the potential users. Golf Genius will replace the current system used for running the golf comps. A full insight will be provided to members via the Blankney Bulletin ASAP.

On Course volunteers are to be encouraged. Further sessions planned.

Correspondence:

Terry Bentley emailed an apology for mis-understanding the Team shirts suggestion of supporting the new team members only. Terry thought it meant all Team members. However, now that sponsorship was available in part, the cost to the club was going to be £200 for all team members, which was agreed by the Committee.

Steve McGinty had verbally reported an incident in the clubhouse where he had to remind a member not to “vape” in the clubhouse. This rule needs to be printed into the Rule Book, and members need reminding again. It also needs displaying in the clubhouse, as the original sign was taken down when the clubhouse was re-decorated.

Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) provided confirmation that the current bank balances total £9997.67. Expenditure in April was a £120 deposit paid for the singer at the planned social function in September. Income was: Comps Levys £238, Easter Raffle £115, 200 Club gross entry monies £2110, Capt Charity £180 . The 200 Club monthly prize draws are due to start in June. Hopefully more members can be encouraged, as only 211 have so far joined this year, compared to over 300 last year. A new Bank Mandate was signed, allowing Lynda Ramskar to become a signatory on the Committee bank account. Richard once again reminded the Committee that online banking can only be carried out by himself, due to the security precautions by Santander Bank, using Richard’s personal mobile phone for pass codes used in all online transactions. It’s important that Chairman Lynda Ramskar is added as a signatory, and this was fully supported and agreed by all the Committee.

Competitions Report

Paul Sirrell had circulated the following report prior to the meeting:

- Draw for Woodcock Cup and Jack & Eve Cup made and displayed on Notice Board. 2 x Gents down without partners in Jack & Eve. Are there 2 ladies available to partner them, if not these matches become byes.
- Golf Genius is primed and I intend to finalise the comps which are showing as active. Thanks to Alec and his Team for loading them onto the system.
- Decision to be made on the Wilkinson Cup Open scheduled for Sunday 14th May 2023
- Sundays Pro Shop Stableford – Discuss (Low entry, possibly due to Bank Holiday Weekend and Coronation Events coinciding)
 - 9 Hole Summer Series to be advertised shortly. Dave Ramskar taking the lead on this and a 9-hole event will be held on the last Friday of the months May to October. A fun event open to all sections with different formats each month, details to be advertised in the very soon.

Course Managers Report:

John Hart advised rainfall for April was 55 mm, and May 2 mm to date. Course conditions are improving day by day. The new grass seed has germinated very well. Fertilizer will be applied to the fairways once the new grass has got more established. Members must be reminded to keep off the sandy seeded areas of the fairways on the 1st and elsewhere. The white lines round the greens will be repainted to remind players to keep off the fringes etc. The hired seeding machinery will be used on and off throughout May to complete the re-seeding. This is proving very beneficial to the course. Once again the shrinking greens were discussed, and John acknowledged this issue, and would look to reverse the process where necessary.

Fixtures update from Kev O'Rourke - nothing much to report. Still planning certain fixtures for next year. Rights v Lefts still needs re-organising. Richard will advise some possible dates.

Professional's Report:

Alec Bradley had previously circulated the Committee with the following report:

- Website – we're continuing to look at the functionality of the site especially the members login area. Some of you will notice that the new tabs have been added here and I'm keen to also include a club committee tab with who's who as well as the meeting minutes.
- Mat rule continues throughout May, thank you to Terry who met with Jim Lammin.
- New golf club Facebook page has launched the old clubhouse page will fade away next month, this covers all social media platforms and improving our marketing/members engagement aspect of your experience, e.g. (team results, holes in ones, nature pictures on the course, etc.) should be all good.
- A decision will be made re the first men's Open on the 14th whether this will go ahead or not, Paul Sirrell is aware.
- Coronation Bank holiday event, amazing entry here and look forward to this event. Well done to the Ladies who came up with this idea.
- 1904 club are still waiting for other clubs to confirm their details before the website goes live. This is the centenary club which our members will see some benefits.
- Thank you to members who have volunteered in helping out at the club with various jobs. This is very much appreciated by us, it's all makes a difference with the visuals and improving member's experience.
Golf Genius is ready to go from May 1st ready for June 1st launch for all sections. Nearly here with this!
- Team wear has been ordered and being processed through Ping from 27.4.23 size matrix has been passed onto our rep, I'm sure will look smart once delivered.
- Still looking at signage for the entrance on arrival to Blankney, as in a 'welcome to Blankney Golf Club' it seems every club I've visited recently, has one and we don't.

Overall course condition has improved a tremendous amount, from better definition to the greens being fed and rolling well too improved visuals. It's still very much a waiting game for the larger areas to recover as we're all aware, the over seeding has made a big difference with the smaller shoots starting to become visible. John and the guys are doing a great job and to think where we were last November credit here but still a way to go, patience please.

Captain's Report

Nigel Saunders was pleased to say he had had many positive comments from members about the improving course conditions. So, many thanks to John and his team for working hard to achieve this. Nigel hoped that payment for competition entries would be possible via BRS soon. He then asked if consideration be given to allowing a members discount for practise balls on the range; Alec will look into this suggestion, that was fully supported by the Committee.

Seniors Section report:

Paul Finley advised the first two away friendly matches had been lost, but the Spalding and Belton matches were still enjoyed by all who played.

Social Secretary's Report

Julian Peckham raised the issue of the profit margins on clubhouse raffles, and after some discussion it was agreed that all raffles would be deemed money raisers for the club (with all proceeds being eventually passed back to the members) and a 50% limit was agreed. Julian suggested that the Rule book needs to incorporate the "no hats rule, within the clubhouse". Signage was suggested near the 18th green to remind players the bar opening hours to encourage use of the clubhouse after play. Could a Ryder Cup style competition be arranged to coincide with the Ryder cup in September? Julian then went on to suggest that could a Pool table be considered for the clubhouse? This would also double as a counter for social functions perhaps. The pool table is easily moved, as it's on its own wheels; and its availability should increase footfall in the bar. Lizzie Taylor will take this back to the Estate for discussions.

Juniors Update:

Chris Woods provided the following report:

We had our first Juniors "meet up" session at the range on Saturday 29th at 15:00.

We got several buckets of balls from the Pro Shop (thanks guys) and even went back for more!

Great first session, weather was awesome, we had 7 Juniors and parents, plus the mother of 2 Juniors playing for the A team came to have a chat. Really good session and some great conversation with the kids and the parents about "expectations".

We will be organising the next session in a couple of weeks with the aim of getting onto the course. (Play 4/9 holes to get the juniors playing) we have a really good mix of experienced to middle (14-15) to some younger ones. (Just need to work out Saturday without an A team match to give those guys a chance to join as well)

Really looking forward to taking this forward.

Any Other Business:

- Graham Bradley Trophy.... It was agreed to purchase a suitable trophy for this event. Richard will arrange, via County Cups. Possible cost could be £100 inc engraving. GB will come along on the day to present the Trophy to the lucky winner.
- Steve McGinty advised he doesn't wish to receive any financial support for the hard work he does on the Social Committee.
- Open Comps.... Terry McCarthy advised that regular visitors from Elsham and Boston GC's would not be entering some of the Blankney Open comps, due to the high cost involved, compared to other opens. With high entry fees and no meals included, this needs reviewing. Lizzie agreed to raise the concerns re pricing and no meals included with the Executive.
- Paul Finley suggested a Club Cash Draw event along the lines done by the Civil Defence club in Lincoln. This could excite the members and raise money for the club. H & S to review this idea.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.35pm

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 6th June 2023

v. 05.05.23