

**BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB**  
**MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 @ 7pm in the Clubhouse**

**Present:**

**Chairman** – Robbie Selway, **Professional** – Alec Bradley  
**Course Manager** - John Hart, **Handicap Sec** – Derek Finch, **Fixtures Sec** – Al Grieves,  
**Secretary & Treasurer** – Richard Tasker, **Vice Capt.** – Nigel Saunders  
**House & Social** – Julian Peckham, **Comps Sec** – Paul Sirrell  
**Junior Organiser** –Chris Wood, **Senior’s Captain** – Ivor Samways,  
**Past Captain** – Kev O’Rourke **Ladies Past Captain** – Anne Smith,  
**Ladies President** – Terry McCarthy, **Senior’s VC** – Paul Finley, **Chairman elect** Lynda Ramscar  
**Incoming Vice Captain** – Simon Smith  
**Apologies:** none

**Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to all present, including the incoming Seniors’ Captain Paul Finley and the Chairman’s successor Lynda Ramscar. The Chairman then went on to thank all the members of the Committee individually, for all the work they have done in the past year. The support and commitment by the Committee has been greatly appreciated throughout the past year. Robbie confirmed that this would be his last Committee meeting as Chairman, and wished Lynda Ramscar his best wishes as the incoming Chairman.

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Derek Finch and seconded by Julian Peckham

**Matters arising from the last meeting:**

**Rule Book update** -No further information has been received from the Executive regarding the updating of the Rule Book, so it was decided to clarify the minimum number of Committee members needed for a meeting to be deemed qualifying and therefore “Quorate”. It was proposed that there should be a minimum of 7 Committee members (just above 50% of total committee members) present to make it possible for such a number to be able to make decisions on behalf of the Committee. All in favour, therefore agreed.

**Website Update.** – Still o/s, Alec Bradley is dealing with this.

- **Clubhouse memorabilia** – Derek Finch has volunteered to sort through the previous items that were in the clubhouse and make some decisions as to what needs replacing (perhaps in the dining room and locker rooms). Derek has this in hand.
- **Clubhouse seating repairs** – The repair work is to start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb, by Manthorpes, a Grantham firm. The Committee having previously agreed to pay a sum of £2500 towards the cost, as a way of financially supporting Blankney Estates during these difficult financial times.
- **Starters Gazebo** – Nige Saunders has placed the order, now waiting for delivery.
- **Committee Golf** (instead of the usual Dinner) – still to be finalised, perhaps in the Spring.
- **2023 Members subscription renewals:** All the member’s renewals including supporting paperwork, had now been posted out to members. It is anticipated a lively AGM will follow!

- The Chairman then wished to discuss again the proposed £5000 grant to Blankney Estates to help towards the current repair issues on the golf course or course improvements. This matter had been previously discussed, when it was agreed in principle to make a payment to BE up to a maximum of £5000 (subject to suitable funds being available) to be used for repairs/improvements to the course. John Hart confirmed that his current budget was generally sufficient for basic repairs to be carried out on the course to deal with the escalating chafer bug problems, but any additional funding would be very welcome. The Chairman suggested that perhaps this sum of money could be used for improving/levelling some of the tees. Further thought is required on this issue, and it will be deferred to the next meeting.

### **Correspondence:**

The Chairman had received a letter from Murray Cook, the Secretary of Fulwell Golf Club, regarding an invite to the 1904 Golf Club Society. He will pass this onto Lynda Ramscar to be discussed at the next meeting.

Two emails have also been received for the AGM.

### **Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:**

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) advised that the draft Accounts for 2022 had been prepared, and circulated to the Committee members before this meeting. This included a more detailed analysis of the Misc & Team expenditure. Richard pointed out that these Accounts covered the period from 1st November 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, as the Accounting period was moved in line with the revised AGM date in February. Richard gave an overview of the Accounts, which confirmed that income had increased from Comps levys, House & Social events, but the 200 Club income was down slightly. Expenditure was up, with money being spent on a new Competitions computer, Clubhouse seating grant to BE, and the additional cost of replacing the Past Captains photos in the clubhouse. The Bank balances (nets funds available) at 31.12.22 totalled £9937 (which allowed for holding the £525 prize money for the A & B Team, for their previous SLGL wins).

Current expenditure for 2023, is fairly modest – Elsham & Bramley entries and print cartridges totalling £108.50. Planned expenditure includes Starters Gazebo at £541 plus VAT, and additional shelving in the clubhouse office for the Competitions corner/trophies. We had considered buying some additional golf shoe scrapers/cleaners for the course, but the cost at £360 each seemed far too expensive.... John Hart would try to come up with a more cost effective solution to this.

### **Competitions Report**

Paul Sirrell circulated the following report to all Committee members prior to this meeting:

- Winter League nearing an end and Finals Week will be Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Can any team go undefeated all Season??????
- Entry Sheet for Captains Drive in displayed on Main Notice Board with Terms of Competition. Can Ladies Section and Seniors Section please make their Members aware and encourage participation please?
- Golf Genius update (Covered in Pro's Report)
- New external Competition named "Race to Woodhall Spa needs to be entered by the Club by 31<sup>st</sup> March for Gents and Ladies. Qualifying Male needs to be identified on WHS Platform.
- If Golf Genius isn't in operation by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 the Club Knockouts will be displayed for 3 weeks on the main notice board for players to enter. For Woodcock and Jack & Eve all entrants must have played in 4 Qualifying Competitions within the last 12 months. All entries will be checked by the Handicap Secretary prior to the Draws commencing and those

not eligible will not be entered in the draw. This will also be stipulated in the Terms of Competition.

### **Professional's Report:**

Alec Bradley circulated the following report to all Committee members before the meeting:

Golf Genius meeting early January with Head leads of club sections of competitions, the necessary forms have been sent over to England Golf to get signed off. Once club V1 contract finishes we can switch over the GG format. We aim to run a few trial competitions for members and get used to the workings of the new system. We also discussed the full package option of live scoring features, this was quoted at 950.00 plus vat, to be discussed.

The Clubs new website and weekly club newsletter has been passed over to myself, the website is looking great with still a lot of work to be completed before going live, this will also feature a members login area, what would you like to see in this section?

Any news worthy club stories or announcements if you can forward them over to [manager@blankneygolfclub.co.uk](mailto:manager@blankneygolfclub.co.uk). This will obviously be utilised mainly for weekly course updates for members to see John's weekly work.

Golf Product of the month award goes to the SPURK golf mat, this has been discounted down to £18 for members and has been greatly received, making your game more enjoyable whilst protecting the course.

### **Course Managers Report:**

John Hart advised the following rainfall figures: Dec 42mm, January 46 mm. The weather has been fairly dry but frosty. The greens staff have already laid approx. 500 sq.metrts of turf, to help towards the chaffer bug damage. The budget set by The Estate to cover the repairs to the course, is fairly open and sufficient to deal with these repairs. Work continues in all the damaged areas. Thanks go to the volunteers who have helped to rake and tidy some fairways. The high levels of water on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> are finally drying up. The frosts have meant that on some days, work has not been possible on the course, apart from "brash collecting", but this has meant time has been spent on inside maintenance duties.

### **Vice Captain's Update**

VC Nigel Saunders advised that he has had list through for the SLGL Fixtures, which have already been passed to the Fixtures Sec – Al Grieves.

### **Ladies Section Report by Terry McCarthy – Ladies President**

The Ladies have been reminded about the forthcoming Club AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. A lunch has been arranged for the Ladies section, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, to take place in the clubhouse.

## **Social Secretary's Report**

Julian Peckham advised that there were some tickets still available for the forthcoming Valentines Social in the clubhouse on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Great value at £20 per ticket, which includes food, a drink and live entertainment from "Elvis". Julian also wanted to point out that catering manager Paul, needs plenty of warning when food is needed for social functions, fixtures or matches. So could all sections make sure they discuss their catering requirements with Paul, well in advance please!

## **Senior Captain's report:**

Ivor Samways advised that Derek Issac has retired from being the Senior's Comps administrator. The Seniors' AGM is arranged for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February; where Paul Finley will take up the role of Seniors' Captain.

## **Juniors Update:**

Chris Wood advised that there was not much to report this time, but looking forward to the new golfing season starting soon.

## **Any Other Business:**

Paul Finley asked John Hart why the water level on the lake on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole was so high. John confirmed it is monitored, and the recent rainfall and the underlying spring leads to higher levels, but it is slowly receding.

John Hart also confirmed there were plenty of new mats available to use on the course. And the use of mats could become compulsory soon. It does help to protect the turf.

Derek Finch suggested that to improve communications to members, perhaps a place should be created on the main noticeboard for regular course updates.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.15pm

**Date of Next meeting:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Richard Tasker - Secretary

Robbie Selway - Chairman

V 13.02.23