

BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB
MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Tuesday 28th February 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

Apologies: John Hart , Alec Bradley

Chairman’s Welcome

The new Chairman Lynda Ramscar welcomed the new members onto the Committee, and wished them well in their new roles. Lynda looks forward to her new role as Chairman and hopes everyone pulls together for the good of Blankney GC. Lynda suggested that it would be a good idea for the Executive to be invited to future meetings, especially with the overall club review in mind.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th Feb 2023 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Paul Sirrell and seconded by Terry McCarthy

Matters arising from the last meeting:

Website Update. – Still o/s, Alec Bradley is dealing with this, and it was agreed that Chris Wood and Simon Smith would meet with Alec to discuss “ what the members need” on the proposed new website.

Clubhouse memorabilia – Derek Finch had previously agreed 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). John Dempster volunteered to take this role on.

Starters Gazebo – ordered, paid for and awaiting delivery

Committee Golf (instead of the usual Dinner) – Kev O’Rourke agreed to organise this.

Proposed 1904 Golf Society – possible membership of this to be discussed with the Estate

Golf Course improvement grant to the Blankney Estates: options discussed included new improved flagsticks, information board on the 1st tee.

AGM follow ups

The question raised by John Harris about a possible EGM was discussed. It was agreed that he did not say that the Executive had refused one, more than it would have been useful for the members to have had an open meeting last year to discuss the on-course problems. Watering new turf, could be a job that a team of volunteers could do, if the greens staff don’t have time. Updating the “course conditions” on the website should be done before 8am, to help members plan their golf. The frost policy needs reviewing. It was agreed that a members wish list of jobs to do on the course, be compiled and discussed with John Hart. Lynda Ramscar and Nige Saunders to then discuss it with John.

Correspondence:

A letter from Kevin Button had been received, raising a few questions relating to course conditions, guest green fee rates, the price of Opens, the winter frost policy, winter competitions, and how the committee could look at further incentives that could improve the use of the course and clubhouse. The chairman will review this, consult the Executive on the issues that need their input and reply to Kevin Button in due course.

Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) gave an overview of the income and expenditure items incurred this year so far. Expenditure items over £100 included paying for the Starters gazebo £560 and South Lincs golf league entry fees £200. Income this year so far was: Seniors balance levy's from 2022 £51 and the surplus raised from the Valentines Supper social £125. The current bank balances totalled £9037 net.

Competitions Report

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

- Winter League finished on Sunday 26th February 2023 with Kev O'Rourke and Richard Tasker taking the honors in what appeared a very tight match final, concluding on the 20th hole. Commiserations to Kev Button and Neil Taylor who finished gallant runners up.
- Captains Drive in scheduled for Saturday 4th March 2023 is fast approaching and the draw will be completed on Thursday 2nd March 2023. Good Luck Nige, hope you have a great year.
- Golf Genius should arrive at the club tomorrow along with the necessary accesses and myself and Gail are meeting to set it up and to put a couple of test competitions on.

It was discussed and agreed that Paul should send full information to members about the changes involved with Golf Genius, How-did-I-do and ClubV1 as soon as possible. Paul agreed to try to get a bulletin issued to members by Friday of this week.

Fixtures update from Kev O'Rourke - Kev said he was just coming to terms with the Fixtures system. He was in the process of looking at certain fixtures for the Ladies Section and forthcoming Club Matches and League games

Professional's Report:

Alec Bradley did not attend the meeting, but had circulated the following report to all Committee members before the meeting:

- Actioned – Golf club website, I am aware of how important the new interface will be for members/visitors engagement. We want to get this right before launch, with this in mind 'Fine Design' the company Blankney Estates use are to provide website training to our key members of staff, this will speed up our working knowledge of functionality. It's looking great so far though.
- Actioned - The Golf Genius ISV is active from March 1st via England Golf, here we can then provide an easier way/format of competitions for members. Paul and Gail are in the loop with this one.

- Actioned this week- Communication is going out this week to encourage members to continue to use the mats. A few have noticed that not everyone is on board with this temporary measure.
- Continued course communications- As you've seen recently the stream of course workings has improved in terms of getting the message out there that the team are very much hard at work. Facilitating this flow is crucial at the moment, highlighting the positives. Over seeding machine on site this week to work on the tees.
- Actioned- I've emailed EG this week to ask about 'where we stand as a club of mat usage in competitions' if required. Will find out more information on this.
- I enjoyed an external benchmarking visit to Frilford Heath GC, Oxfordshire, last week. An invaluable experience looking at member touch points and journey experience. A few ideas to try and implement at BGC.
- Good luck to Nigel for this year and Saturday's captain's drive in, I'm sure you'll excel in your year of captaincy.

The use of mats on the course was discussed, the Chairman presented a suggested Local rule to deal with the use of mats on the course. This was agreed, and copies of the Rule would be placed on the various noticeboards throughout the club. The South Lincs Golf League may not accept this, so Nigel Saunders would ask them about this.

Course Managers Report:

John Hart was not at the meeting, but had circulated the following report:

Rainfall February 15mm. Busy continuing clearing bird damage, turfing tees, bunkers and other areas Greens solid tined x2 Preventative fungicide applied to greens Spiker for over-seeding tees on hire this week. Introduction of mandatory use of mats. Foot cleaners ordered. The coming weeks if weather permits, we will be looking to start over-seeding the damaged areas. Lawn sand will be applied to greens. Fertiliser treatment to tees. And lots more behind the scene tasks.

Captain's Report

Nigel Saunders advised that arrangements were in hand for Captain's Drive In on Saturday. He then went on to question the value for money given to members on the practise balls used on the driving range. The costs were high, but the quality of balls was very low. Lincoln Golf centre for example, gave much better value to users, by using top quality balls with "trackman" facilities. Where are the better quality practise balls as previously promised?

Ladies Section Report by Terry McCarthy – Ladies President

The Ladies Committee had discussed the possibility of "raffling the ladies Captain's car parking space" in the car park. The money raised would be split between the Captain's Charity and the Ladies Section. The contribution raised for the ladies Section will help towards paying for the Ladies Committee honorariums.

Social Secretary's Report

Julian Peckham advised that a new H & S sub-committee had been formed. The primary function of the sub-committee is to increase footfall in the bar by arranging further social events for the members. The recent Elvis/Valentines night had raised £125. Julian sort guidance from the Committee regarding possible profit margins on events and raffles, so further thought is needed here. Julian has requested that the summer opening hours for the clubhouse bar, are increased to cover a period on at least an hour after dusk. Paul Guilbert is happy to arrange this. Julian is also keen to promote the use of the clubhouse to outside functions, and a possible function is being planned with Metheringham Church. Could consideration be given to Steve McGinty being given the Committee subscription discount as he does a tremendous amount of work for the H & S sub-committee. Julian isn't a golfer, so doesn't benefit from the Committee discount. The Chairman said she would raise this with the Executive. A Coronation Cup golf competition is being planned for Bank Holiday Monday 8th May., which could involve food and a social after. The Captain's & Seniors' Captain's Drive In refreshments are organised (port and pork pie).

Seniors' Captain Paul Finley said he was looking forward to his new role. Arrangements were in hand for his Seniors' Drive In on Monday 6th March

Handicaps Secretary - John Dempster was also looking forward to getting involved with his new role. He had received a lengthy handover document from the retiring Handicaps secretary Derek Finch.

Juniors Update:

Chris Wood advised that he had just provided a Juniors update for the Blankney Bulletin. He had arranged a meeting with the regional co-ordinator of the Stacey Golf Foundation. It was suggested that Chris undertakes a full review of the various Junior Trophies held by the club, ready for the new golfing season. Richard reminded Chris that there is the new Giles Fawcett Junior Trophy to be competed for this year.

Any Other Business:

Mandatory use of mats was discussed, and notices are needed on all the noticeboards, so that visitors as well as members were fully aware of this Local Rule. Chairman Lynda will amend the wording of the possible penalties for noncompliance, and then circulate.

Paul Sirrell confirmed that the Graham Bradley trophy is going to be a mixed event. Richard will organise a suitable trophy.

Committee car parking spots were then discussed. Paul Sirrell had previously suggested that there should only be reserved spots for the Chairman and the Club Captain, with all other spaces being available to all Committee members on a first come, first served basis. This would make much better use of the spaces, to the benefit of all committee members. This was discussed in principle, and most people agreed with the idea. The Chairman suggested that we give this further thought and defer a final decision until the next committee meeting, when all Committee members should be present.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.55pm

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 4th April at 7pm

v. 02.03.23