

**BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB**  
**MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 @ 7pm in the Clubhouse**

**Present:**

**Chairman** – Lynda Ramskar, **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** – Tim Banks

**Apologies:** Paul Sirrell

**Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Tim Banks (Blankney Estates executive). Lynda asked if at future meetings, any AOB should be tabled in advance. Also, all reports must be emailed prior to meeting, to help speed up the meetings and make the Minutes easier to record.

**Tim Banks from Blankney Estates – Planning for the Future.**

Tim Banks confirmed that Blankney Estates ( BE) had now taken advice from a specialist firm of Accountants regarding the VAT question on subs through Members club, and was happy to report that their view was that if it was all correctly structured and that as long as the new separate entity was entirely at arms-length from BE then the proposal could work from a VAT point of view. Tim confirmed that the 2023 financial loss was in the region of £190,000 and the potential VAT saving of approx. £70,000 would help future years if a new structure could be achieved. The question was asked by Richard T if BE would allow the members to take over the running of the clubhouse, as opposed to simply having a licence to use the course, to which Tim answered yes, and that BE were willing to discuss all proposals in principle. Tim outlined two possible advantages of reverting back to a Members club, which included not only the possible VAT saving, but the club being in command of the future structure of all membership issues including subscriptions, however future potential risks/losses could have to be shared to ensure the correct commercial independence. So it’s now down to the Committee to decide if the club has the appetite to move forward with the outline proposal. Chairman Lynda thanked Tim for the update and it was agreed after some discussion that the Committee need their own meeting to consider matters further. Much more financial details will be required, and Tim confirmed that BE would be happy to provide any information that would help the analysis.

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Paul Finley and seconded by John Dempster

## **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, which could include details of who's on the Committee and photos. Along with Minutes from Committee meetings for members to see.

**Clubhouse memorabilia** – John Dempster suggested that some old photos etc. could be placed in the entrance area of the clubhouse (and BE are happy with this) and other items could be placed in the changing rooms. John will progress this. Apparently the Metcalfe Cup is missing, and John Hart said he will have a look for it, in the old offices.

**Golf Course improvement grant to the Blankney Estates:** It was decided to put this matter on hold for now, pending further discussions on the proposed change of status to a Members club.

**Rule Book update** – was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

**The Graham Bradley Cup** has been purchased, and ready to be presented to the lucky winner on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Richard negotiated a good deal with County Cup for a quality silver cup.

**Information Board for the 1<sup>st</sup> tee** – the design needs finalising, and alternative quotes need to be requested. (Post meeting note – Richard has contacted Allen Signs of Lincoln to discuss alternatives. One option could be to ask BE wood yard to produce a quality oak frame, with Allen Sign to provide the signage).

## **Correspondence:**

An email from Terry Bentley has been received, thanking the Committee for the financial support for the Club Team shirts. Terry also asked if we could write to thank Mike Wells for the part sponsorship of the cost, and Chairman Lyn advised she would do just that.

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

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) provided confirmation that the current bank balances total £9767. Since the last meeting, expenditure has been: Subsidy for the food at the Coronation Scramble £224, Graham Bradley Cup £120. Income has come from the Ladies section for Ladies Comps Levy £114.30. The first draw for the 2023 200 club will take place in June, and it's not too late to join the 200 Club for this year.

## **Competitions Report**

Paul Sirrell offered his apologies for not attending the meeting, therefore no Comps report was given.

## **Course Managers Report:**

John Hart advised rainfall for May was 23 mm, and June 0 mm to date. Course conditions are very dry and need rain! The newly turfed areas are being watered by hand. Grass growth has slowed up because of the dry conditions, but the course continues to improve. Divot bags have been introduced, and these are being used by members, but the bags are very slow to return. More bags are needed, so they will be ordered, or perhaps volunteers could be asked to make some? Preferred lies have been granted until the end of June. The chafer bug treatment will be applied very soon, and will have to be watered in. John confirmed it's impractical to ask the members to help with the watering.

### **General Manager's Report:**

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

- May 26<sup>th</sup> the 'Mat policy' was lifted and play resumed back to normality, the benefits have been evident and we'll look to re introducing this through the winter months.
- The 'divot bag' initiative has worked very well with members getting on board with this, I did send out a polite reminder for members to drop them off after use
- Ladies section Opens/Scramble has now been set up using the 'Opens' tab via the website, lots of benefits here for selection and payment of event.
- Very positive remarks about the overall condition of the course, considering the lack of rainfall John and team has had to deal with, the team will continue to water the newly turfed areas.

Overall, we are gaining positive traction with our actions as we continue to drive things forward across all departments, life is a lot easier when the course condition is back to where we know it can be, kudos to John Hart and the team.

### **Captain's Report**

Club Captain Nigel Saunders advised that arrangements for his Captains Day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July were well in hand. It's to be a Texas Scramble, with a breakfast bap and coffee before, drinks and Hog-roast after with a live band. An entry fee of £10 is being proposed. Batemans have offered support with 2 free barrels of beer.

### **Seniors Section report:**

Paul Finley circulated the following report, prior to the meeting:

10<sup>th</sup> May. The seniors match against Stoke Rochford. The course at Stoke Rochford was in great condition, we all enjoyed the game, and the breakfast meal was enjoyed by all of the players. The match result was a loss for Blankney 2.5 to 5.5 for Stoke Rochford.

15<sup>th</sup> May. The seniors match against Boston. The course at Boston was very good, and there was not a player who was dissatisfied with the day. The overall result for this game was a loss Blankney 2.5 to 5.5 to Boston.

18<sup>th</sup> May. The seniors match against South Kyme was the first home game of the year. The course was playing very well and the greens were a delight to play on. After game we had a two course meal: a good wholesome sausage and mash with desert. The game was a loss for Blankney at 3 to South Kyme 5. From what I could gather from both our players and South Kyme the general view was a positive one. All believed the course was in good condition and everyone seemed enjoy playing here.

## **Social Secretary's Report**

Julian advised there was no official report this time , Just a thank you from the fire station for the clubs assistance in raising £225 for the fire fighters charity. Big thanks to all the staff. Especially Paul and Annie who came in on the Sunday to provide the catering which was great.

Mr Cool here on Saturday, if everyone could try and attend and encourage friends to come along.

There had been an official response from Lizzie Taylor regarding Julian previous request to consider a pool table for the clubhouse. This was turned down for various reasons.

## **Any Other Business:**

### **New member's initiative:**

- Alec Bradley advised he was always trying to look at ways to promote increased membership, and social media plays a big part in this. There is a very good spirit in the club from members who have recently joined.
- Tim Banks advised that the Executive have considered ways to encourage membership and this could include a reward for existing members with three £10 vouchers being offered to spend in the bar or the Pro shop. Membership could be offered to new members on a rolling basis, with no fixed annual renewal date. This could be extended to existing members, which would help cash flow by spreading the workload at renewal time throughout the year, not just at March or April. Also to kick-start a new member's drive, for any new members joining in July, the joining fee could be waived. Consideration is being given to offer "practise ground membership" at £75 which would include the use of the clubhouse with a member's card. Any additional footfall in the bar is encouraged, and members could benefit from a pre-loaded bar card worth £20. Further, more final information will follow from BE in due course.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.44pm

**Date of Next meeting:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

v. 14.06.23