

**BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB**  
**MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 @ 7pm in the Clubhouse**

**Present:**

**Chairman** – Lynda Ramscar, **Club Captain** – Nigel Saunders **Ladies President** – Terry McCarthy  
**Professional/Club Manager** – 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, Paul Finley, Julian Peckham

**Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Tim Banks (Blankney Estates executive).

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

Tim Banks confirmed that Blankney Estates have now agreed to reward existing full members who have been with the club for a minimum of 21/22 22/23 and renewed membership for 23/24, by giving them £30 worth of bar/pro shop vouchers. These are to be used at £10 per month for July August and September.

The Chairman wished to point out that we are in the process of forming a sub-committee to discuss in detail the proposal by Blankney Estates to change the status of the club back to a Members club. The sub-committee to comprise of some existing committee members plus some “business minded members” who can add some commercial hands on experience to this initiative.

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Nigel Saunders and seconded by Simon Smith

**Matters arising from the last meeting:**

**Website Update.** – Alec Bradley advised this is still work in progress, various amendments being considered. Committee details still not on, date format still foreign! Type style far too faint

**Rule Book update** – all suggested amendments discussed and agreed, apart from Club Captain role. Richard to email Lizzie T with details.

**Information Board for the 1<sup>st</sup> tee** – design options and supplier still being considered.

**New member’s initiative** - No joining fee for new members joining in July is now being offered.

**Correspondence:**

‘The Chairman has been approached by a Lady Member who wished to register that her husband had been very disappointed not to have been able to take part in ‘Captains weekend’ this year. He

can only play on a Sunday and this year for the first time the event was confined to the Saturday only which meant it was the first Captains event he had missed in all the years of being a member.

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

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) circulated a written report prior to the meeting, which detailed recent income and expenditure. The Captain's Day expenses were also included within this report. The reconciled bank balances totalled £7821.27

### **Competitions Report**

Paul Sirrell offered his apologies for not attending the meeting, but had provided the following report.

- We are now getting ready for a busy period in the Competitions Calendar with Club Championships/Westmoreland Cup fast approaching followed quickly by 3 Opens.
- This Sunday sees the playing of the Inaugural Graham Bradley Trophy and entries are quite healthy with 70+ entries.
- Club Champs/Westmoreland entry not great at present, hopefully this will fill up nearer the date.
- Steve McGinty is looking for volunteers to act as Starters and for the registration desk for the 3 upcoming Open competitions. Please let Steve have your availability if you're interested.
- Finally, we need to be proactive in finding a Competitions Secretary for 2024 as I will not be putting myself forward for nomination. Just raising this now rather than waiting until the end of the year.

### **Course Managers Report:**

John Hart advised rainfall for June was 36 mm, July 5mm to date. The course still welcomed more rain, and had continued to improve over the last month. John had received many complimentary comments on the how the course was slowly recovering. The re-seeding machine is due back shortly for another session. 2 trees are down on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole, and will be removed when staff are available. The newly made divot bags were very well received, but we need a collection point with a sign just after the 18<sup>th</sup>; John will arrange. Sadly, a divot had been taken out the 14<sup>th</sup> green, but the culprit remains a mystery. The recent agronomist report is still being analysed for follow up action. The report will soon be published to the members. Maintenance week is going to take place in August once again. Simon asked if the practice net area could be tidied up; John agreed to do this.

With regards the Phillip Metcalf Trophy - a check has been made of the old offices and no trophy located, will double check office and cupboards in Club house. ( Post meeting note: the trophy has now been found in the cupboard under the trophy cabinet).

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

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

You will notice that the Past winners picture gallery has returned in the foyer of the clubhouse entrance, the feature wall was suggested by John Dempster, great idea and looks very good.

The website club committee tab has now been added with minutes of past meetings being posted for members to peruse.

Golf course images of the tour of the course have been upgraded and will continue be looked at as the course conditions returns to an improved nature. It's key that we are exposing the look of the holes in the summer months, Ollie Wells is assisting with this and has already captured stunning course vistas.

#### Recent announcements/developments:

The July's new membership recruitment drive is now 'live', a game changer in how we have pivoted from the JF for 31 days, but the current circumstances require this short-term change in policy to increase our numbers.

Preferred lies have been confirmed by County official Jim Lamin to continue for the month of July. We are aware that the areas recovering still require extra protection through increased playing months.

Team wear has been delivered to the Men's A and B teams, if we can produce a team picture soon to document the players in the sponsored garments.

Golf course signage is ongoing through Eagle golf's Jack Diment, I'm keen to tie an appointment down so a few of us can agree on what type of content you'd like on the 'welcome to Blankney' sign, tricky this time of the year as the season is in full swing.

Captains 'day' this year, overall, a very popular change to deliver the team aspect of a Texas scramble, in a recent golf study this format came out on top in terms of enjoyment and engagement for club golfers, for an insular sport such as golf the team feel makes a nice change. Good luck to Nige!

A busy mid-season month at Blankney with the course ever improving for all to see.

#### **Captain's Report**

Club Captain Nigel Saunders advised that the Pro/Captain's Away day is arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> October at Holme Hall GC. Thought needs to be given to a Presentation Evening later in the year. The usual mid-year one did not take place, as previous years have been very poorly attended now that prize money is no longer presented on the night.

#### **Seniors Section report:**

Paul Finley gave his apologies, but asked if his thanks could be passed onto all staff at the club, for all their hard work and diligence throughout his Seniors Captain's Day. £185 was raised for the Captain's Charity.

#### **Social Secretary's Report**

Julian Peckham had offered his apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting, but wished to thank Steve McGinty for his assistance in running the Tombola on Captain's Day, which raised £300 for the Captain's Charity.

#### **Junior's Report**

Chris Wood confirmed he would try to encourage the juniors to enter the planned 9 hole events on a Friday evening.

#### **Any Other Business:**

- None

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 7.58pm

**Date of Next meeting:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

v. 18.07.23