

BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB
MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Tuesday 1st August 2023 @ 7pm in the Clubhouse

Present:

Chairman – Lynda Ramskar, **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, Julian Peckham, John Dempster, Chris Wood

Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Tim Banks from Blankney Estates – Planning for the Future.

Lynda Ramskar confirmed that the Members Sub Committee had been formed, and their first meeting was taking place tomorrow (2nd August). Once all members had agreed to partake fully in the Sub Committee, the Confidentiality Agreement can then be drawn up, allowing financial information etc. to be released by Blankney Estates (BE).

Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th July 2023 were agreed and approved (with two minor amendments suggested by John Hart)

Proposed by Nigel Saunders and seconded by Terry McCarthy

Matters arising from the last meeting:

Website Update. – Alec Bradley advised various minor changes had been made, with more to come on an ongoing basis.

Rule Book update – Lizzie Taylor had asked for clarification on a few points, these were discussed and agreed by the Committee. Richard will email the response back to Lizzie T.

Information Board for the 1st tee – Richard is still awaiting the alternative quote from Allen Signs.

New member’s initiative - The “no joining fee” offer to new members in July has resulted in 19 members joining. This is a positive result, and while some existing members have complained that the joining fee has been waived for this promotion, they must realise that the result is more income to the club, so everyone gains! Further new member initiatives will follow.

Correspondence:

We have received a confirmation letter from Fulwell GC confirming our membership of the 1904 club. There is a host event in August 2024 at Fulwell to which all member clubs are invited. This will be added to the 2024 fixture list.

John Wood has again pointed out that there is a duplication of the Donegan competition board in the clubhouse. The new style board in the dining area of the clubhouse, is no longer updated, so this can be used for another competition if needs be. Nige Saunders will try to find out via a contact, if all current lettering can be successfully removed.

A complaint was received from a Social Member following Captains day regarding an issue that occurred in the Centenary Garden whilst waiting for the prize giving. The complaint has since been dealt with.

Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) advised the only expenditure in the past month was the July 200 club prizes totalling £160. The 200 club membership has increased to 221. Various amounts had been received for the Captain's Charity, with a further £486 due from the member's entry fees. The current net balance stands at £7708.91

The outstanding Majestic Crystal invoice of £67.08 is still a mystery. Alec has requested a copy on the invoice. Richard asked Lynda to email a thank you from the Committee, to all the ladies who volunteered to make some new divot bags. Finally, a reminder was given to Kev O'Rourke (B Team Capt.) to ensure the money held in the accounts from previous A & B Team league winnings, were used by the end of the year. Kev will discuss with the A & B Team and report back.

Competitions Report

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

Last week's Open cancelled but upcoming ones will go ahead and hopefully will have greater entries. Have sent my thoughts by previous email into a restructure for future opens and remain in favour of condensing and having an opens week. We need to arrange a suitable date for presentation evening at the end of October. *This was discussed by the Committee, and will be discussed further by the Comps Sec, Fixtures Sec, Simon Smith and Alec B.*

One further item for this evening's committee meeting. Email from the mayor of Lincoln requesting support for his charity golf day (already forwarded) at Carholme GC on 6th Sept at £40 pp. Teams can be mixed. *Nige Saunders agreed to take this on, and organise a team.*

Fixtures Report:

Kev O'Rourke presented the following report:

Open Competitions 2024

There has been some talk of consolidating club Open competitions next year into perhaps 1 week. May I suggest an option could be to make it during 1 month – August? This would give a little spread and avoid complaints from members that they can't play for a whole week. It is also perhaps a month when working people are more likely to be able to take a day off work and are more likely to attend an Open competition. We can define how many Opens we offer and decide from there. *It was decided to form a discussion group to plan the Opens for the future.*

Mixed matches

Kev will try find out what the feedback is for mixed matches, and the desire to continue with them. And also try to find out whether dates have affected attendance for the various club mixed competitions.

Club fixtures

We need to confirm dates for Captain's Drive-in, Ladies Captain drive in, Captain's weekend. Also, it has seemed difficult to assemble teams for the club v seniors match (March)...Paul Finlay was in agreement to drop this fixture.

Sunrise stableford

This comp use to run mid-June and it was well supported. It was agreed to run it again in 2024.

Course Managers Report:

John Hart advised rainfall for July was a massive 129 mm, which followed nearly 6 weeks of no rain! The course is continuing to improve. The seeding machine has been in use again. The greens have been verti-cut. Maintenance week (only 2 days) will take place in September, when the greens will be 8mm hollow tined. Thought has already been given to the siting of the winter temporary greens, with preparation being planned well before the Winter League starts in November.

There has been some serious damage to some of the greens by someone taking divots on the greens. The latest one being on the 9th green. Some investigation work has been carried out, trying to identify the culprit. The Chairman and Captain will deal with this, if a culprit is identified. Such damage cannot be tolerated, and players need reminding that if anyone is found to be responsible, action will be taken, which could lead to suspension or expulsion!

John was asked what action was planned to reverse the problem of the "shrinking greens". John advised that over the years, without conscious thought, the greens staff mowing the greens can just keep mowing inside the last cut, which results in an ever decreasing green size. This will be slowly rectified over the next year or so. Worm casts are already showing themselves, and John wished to point out that no treatment is available. This would be worthy of a mention in the next Members Bulletin.

General Manager's Report:

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

. Following on from last meeting, I have implemented the Club Committee tab as you'll notice as you land on the club website, I did send a reminder out last week for representatives to send over profile images to fill in the gaps. The fonts have also now been brightened as requested, the American date style is still outstanding.

1st tee signage or arrival sign, I believe we left this with Richard to explore with a company that he has recommended. Hopefully this might work out cheaper than the Eagle Golf quotes. Talking of signage you will also notice the 2 feather banners and promotional membership banner that are strategically placed in and around the club, the roadside one looks very good.

New members Join in July promotion, the numbers are good and part of all of our jobs is to welcome and engage with all new members into Blankney.

The Open this week was unfortunately cancelled due to low numbers, please see my pre meeting feedback email earlier this week that if time is permitted, we may discuss this and go through potential ideas or tweaks for 2024 season.

The crucial message has now gone out to the membership in Saturday's newsletter that John has applied the chemical Acelepryn to the golf course, to guard against the chafer bug eggs that have been laid. We have seen how the wet conditions through July have certainly helped the application.

Finally, we have had confirmation from Jim Lammin that it's OK to continue to use preferred lies during August.

Captain's Report

Club Captain Nigel Saunders thanked John Hart and his staff for the continued recovery on the course. The ex Blankney members who moved to Newark GC and played in the match against Blankney recently were most surprised at the current excellent conditions they enjoyed. Nigel then went onto request a bell on the 4th hole for safety reasons. The trees on this hole have grown up even more, and the line of sight to the green is not at all clear. Kev O'Rourke reminded the meeting that he had bought a bell for this purpose previously and it is still available. The Committee agreed to its installation, and John Hart will arrange installation.

Seniors Section report:

Paul Finley Senior's Captain, advised the following:

10th July 23 Home to Belton Woods.

This fixture was only seven pairs playing due to lack of numbers from Belton Woods, this did not affect the team spirit, and the game went well for Blankney winning 5 to 2. I would like to thank the three extra players who showed up and did not get a game; they did enjoy their round and social mixing.

12th July 23 Away to Newark.

The course at Newark has been changed around since I last played it, with the reversal of the tees, which I felt made it a better course to play. Result of the match Newark 6 Blankney 2.

20th July 23 Home to Boston.

This fixture was as usual an eagerly anticipated fixture, the course was in great condition, we had only seven pairs out for this fixture and we all enjoyed the company, the standard of play was very good and we enjoyed the meal afterwards in the clubhouse. The result was a win for Boston of 5 to 2

24th July 23 Home to Stoke Rochford. We had been warned by the ground staff that there could be some water on the greens, this however was not a big problem. The result was a narrow win o Stoke Rochford of 4.5 to 3.5 Blankney. It will be a meal afterwards next year, instead of the breakfast.

31st July 23 Home to Newark.

The course was playing very well and the standard of play was very good. The result was a win for Blankney at 6 to 2. The course throughout this month has been in very good condition, the preferred lies and drops from the reseeded areas were accepted by all, and the reseeding bags were used by the visitors and Members alike.

Any Other Business:

- Future Presentation Evenings were discussed, and further thought is required here, to try to establish a different format to encourage better attendance. Alec advised a further Members survey is planned for the autumn, so this could be included in it.
- A change of how the tees are presented was suggested as future discussion point for the next meeting. Do we need a different approach to the usual White Yellow and Red tees?

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.16pm

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 5th September 2023

v. 20.08.23