

BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB

MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 @ 7pm in the Clubhouse

Present:

Chairman – Lynda Ramscar, **Club Captain** – Nigel Saunders, **Lady President** – Terry McCarthy, **General 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 Captain** – Paul Finley, **Blankney Estates** – Tim Banks.

Apologies:

Secretary & Treasurer, Course Manager and House & Social.

Chairman's Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Tim Banks from Blankney Estates (BE) – Planning for the Future:

Tim confirmed that BE have responded to the Membership Sub-Committee's questions today, 03 Oct 23 and proposed dates in October for the next MSC/BE meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th September 2023 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by: Captain and Seconded by: Senior's Captain.

Matters arising from the last meeting:

Rule Book Update. The Rule Book has been published but unfortunately the final draft was not reviewed by the Chair and committee before the final print run. The General Manager (GM) agreed to upload the Rule Book to the Members area of the website and any subsequent amendments can be uploaded to the online version.

Information Board for the 1st tee. GM and Secretary to discuss and define the final version of the board.

Bell on the 4th. Following discussion, it was decided to move the bell to the back of the 4th green (adjacent to ball washer near 5th tee) and for it to be rung when play has finished on the hole. The GM will arrange for the bell to be moved and appropriate signage.

New Tee Markers and Slope Ratings. Following contact with England Golf the Lady President confirmed that the course rating is due to be reviewed in 2024 and, following confirmation of the procedure from the Handicap Secretary, the GM agreed to apply to England Golf for the course ratings to be reviewed.

New Touch Screen. Following consultation with the Club Secretary and a thorough clean, the touch screen is now fully functional.

Correspondence

Nil.

Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Due to his absence, the Treasurer submitted the following:

Expenditure since last meeting:

Invoice for Team Gilets	£670 (paid by Teams)
200 Club Prizes for September	£160
200 Club Prizes for October	£160
Balance for cost of singer - social night - 23 Sep 23	£480 (deposit-£120 paid in April)

Income:

Additional 200 Club members	£110
Race to Woodhall credit (EGU)	£35
Social night 23 Sep 23 - Profit	£577.25
(Tickets/raffle £1177.25 less the cost of the singer - £600)	

There is currently approx. £612.05 due in Comps Levies from BE, and this will be requested very soon.

Current total of net funds available £ 9314.03
(this takes into account the accrued Comps income, and the balance of 200 Club prizes to be paid out before the end of the year).

Competitions Report

Not a great deal to report this month, Lincolnshire Bomber and Wilkinson Cup were cancelled due to lack of entries. Eric & Sybil McHale went ahead with 3 Teams entered and as Chris has stated in his report, only 1 entrant for the last 2 Junior Competitions. Lefts v Rights was played at the weekend with limited numbers also. As we have discussed previously work needs to be done in this area.

Winter League entry is still open and is filling up reasonably well. Finalisation of the leagues and fixtures will be completed promptly after closure and no late additions will be allowed.

Do we need to review pre-booked competition slots for all competitions, for all sections as there seems to be a lot allocated that don't get used and are returned for general play outside of booking times on BRS which restricts members booking as usual.

This was discussed and agreed that next season's pre-booked slots will be based on the number of entries for this year and if necessary, adjusted as required.

Several members have approached me and asked why 2 slots are reserved for the ladies on a Saturday morning at prime time. The answer I have had informally is that it is for ladies who work and can't play in the Wednesday Competitions. Is that the case? And if so, why are these slots required as the ladies have a full competitions calendar on a Sunday which allows those who work to play.

The two Saturday tee times are reserved for ladies who work and cannot play in the Wednesday competition. If not taken up, the pro shop is informed by the Ladies Competition Secretary. Ladies Sunday competitions are not played every Sunday.

Fixtures Report

Diary details for 2024 events have been submitted to the GM. Competition dates for the Gents, Ladies and Seniors are included. I have asked that the Ladies check the diary listing and submit any extras (like Saturday/Wednesday events), similar for the Seniors.

Open Competitions - Dates for the Open competitions have been included, although these may change. In particular, a suitable date for the Lincs Bomber needs to be set. It is suggested that a roll and coffee/tea is included for all Opens.

A sub-committee of: GM, Fixtures and Competitions Secretaries, Club Captain and Vice-Captain, will convene to discuss Opens for 2024.

Juniors - Events for the Juniors section can be added to reflect dates from 2023 if that is suitable. Dates are flexible, subject to any changes requested by the Junior Organiser.

Club Friendlies - Gents matches are included on the diary listing. Some of these matches are on weekdays, some clubs can only accommodate that. The Club v Seniors has been omitted as it tends to be an all-seniors affair anyway, plus the Seniors have so many fixtures to fill.

Roll-up Stablefords - Dates for 2024 Club roll-up stableford competitions have been nominated. These are entirely provisional and can be adjusted if any clashes arise.

The intent is to provide an opportunity for members to get together, play and submit cards with a competitive edge. Generally played on Tuesdays and Fridays.

King Charles Celebration - A competition entry has been added to 6 May 24 (Bank Holiday Monday) as an annual event. A suggestion is that it is a Waltz, any combination of 3 players.

Sunrise Stableford - This event has been added on Saturday 23 Jun 24, shotgun start at 6am. It is suggested that a breakfast is offered when players have finished. This format was popular in the past, a good social day.

Handicap Secretary

Nothing to report.

Course Manager Report

Due to his absence, John Hart, the Course Manager submitted the following:

Rainfall – August 57 mm September 77mm

Course in good order and growing like mad.

Greens maintenance ongoing, should be finished 4 Oct 23, greens hollow cored with 8mm tines and will be overseeded and top dressed with sand on 4 Oct 23, minimal disruption to green surfaces but a very important job to complete.

The Vice Captain raised a point from the members; it appears that pin positions are changed less frequently than they have been in the past. The General Manager will liaise with the Course Manager on this matter.

In the coming weeks as growth slows down, I will introduce white lines in front of greens and approaches to protect them and the surrounds.

Winter greens cut and fertilised.

Regarding the email in last week's Bulletin, the trial of relaxation of Frost Policy, if this relaxation is abused we will look to reverting back to the original policy, all members must work together to police the new policy.

General Manager Report

Our Food and Beverage Manager, Paul Guilbert is unfortunately leaving his post as Clubhouse Manager as of the end of October, Paul has really turned the clubhouse culture around in a positive way and will be missed by all staff. We wish him well in

his next role. As we flex into the Winter months and can reflect on potential recruitment for 2024 whilst exploring other options.

The Chairman and committee expressed their sadness that Paul has decided to leave but, understood his decision and pass on their sincere thanks for his work and the way he has improved the F&B aspect of the club.

As stated by the Course Manager, we have decided as an Executive to relax the winter trolley restrictions, we will insist on a self-policing this decision by allowing members and visitors to use the rough on each hole, this is a huge change in policy and puts it on the members response to see how this goes.

Last Winter (Feb 2023) we introduced the Spurr Mats for golfers to use whilst we protected the fairways, this proved to be a popular decision with many members and, lots of other venues pivot throughout the Winter period to continue to protect their fairways, we will follow suit. John will liaise very soon to make this call before the end of this season. Watch out for this earlier move this year. Other venues influence this along with changing weather patterns. So, if it's a wet November/December introduction of mats maybe bought forward.

The Vice Captain expressed that members are very willing to use Spurr Mats over the winter, noting that the Club will have to request authority to do so from the County.

As we have made Open decisions recently of postponing two events it's time to look into freeing up these days or giving them back to the membership to play in for next year. The Comps sec is aware of these calls. Lots of benchmarking to still be completed as this can still work as long as we make the right calls for 2024. Ladies and Seniors work very well.

Twilight golf has now been moved back to 2pm to reflect the loss in daylight hours, this alone has proven to be a very successful scheme to increase visiting footfall, with one or two membership conversions.

The Vice Captain raised from the members, a point that twilight golf and Golf Now bookings often cost less than the Members Guest Rate. The GM stated that he and his staff have and will accommodate members guests at a competitive rate. Members should feel free to discuss with Pro Shop staff if they believe they are being overcharged. Also, a challenge was raised as to how and if, Corporate Memberships tee times are monitored. The GM stated that they are monitored, and members should approach him directly if clarification is required.

Course news: The Course Manager will discuss how the fairways have been fertilised and course/green maintenance plan. Other topics are walkways from greens (traffic hotspots) how can we manage these areas better without disrupting player behaviour.

Pro/Captain Challenge Day on the 20 October, looking forward to this event at Rufford Park GC. Getting a handle on this next week, with players and pairings.

Captain Report

The Club Presentation Night will take place on 25 Nov 23 (6.30-7.30pm) in conjunction with a Social Night (live music) starting from 8pm.

A LUGC meeting focussing on the structure of the A and B teams leagues will take place on 30 Oct 23 at Spalding Golf Club. He, Fixtures secretary and Vice-Captain will attend.

Ladies Section Report

The ladies' section held their Charity Am-Am on 13th September 2023. It all went very smoothly thanks to all the help received with registration, starting and donations. We were even lucky with the weather, which was warm and sunny sandwiched between two wet days. There were many compliments for the course and some surprise too, as how well it had recovered – thank you John and team. We raised £578.00 which will go to the Captain's Charity, Dementia UK. There may be a little bit more as we have some prizes left, which will be raffled on Wednesday 4th October.

The GM stated that some members had complained about slow play on the day of the Charity Am-Am and they had to walk in from the 13th. The Lady President will take this back to the Ladies Committee and look to avoid delays at the halfway house.

It was agreed at committee some time ago that ladies' prizes won in club competitions would be M&S vouchers. This has not happened as ladies are still having prize money put into their "wallet". Can this be rectified please?

The GM stated that this has already been rectified.

Junior Organiser Report

We tried to run two competitions this month, disappointingly, there were no entries for the first and only one for the second, so they were cancelled.

A couple of juniors asked if they could play along, therefore a roll up was played and the junior organiser played with 3 juniors, which was very successful. Looking to try this again to encourage juniors from Ollie Well's group lessons to take part. In turn, this could encourage them to become members and progress from a few holes to 7 and onto 18. If we get this right, there is a future for Juniors in Blankney GC.

I will keep working with the GM over the winter to maintain progress and cover off all external support that is on offer and how we use that (tie into local schools etc.).

Seniors Section Report

The Senior's Captain stated that the section was running smoothly, and he continued to receive compliments on the condition of the golf course.

House and Social Report

We had a lovely evening with Fiona Shaw, financial details are in Richard's report. Our next two evenings will follow a similar format, with tributes to Freddie Mercury and Robbie Williams on 25 Nov 23, following the Club Presentation Evening.

Following positive feedback from those who attended, the committee would like to express their thanks to the H&S team for organising the social on 23 Sep 23.

We have secured the Manchester band Louder than the DJ, for our Dinner Dance at the Lincoln Hotel on 24 Feb 24. We would very much like to offer discounted tickets to our members like in previous years. £50 tickets discounted to £40 to a member and one guest.

Any Other Business:

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.

To be discussed following Course Rating Review.

The Lady President requested that the 2024 Lady Captain (Sue Battle) be able to attend the next committee meeting.

The Chairman and committee stated that she would be more than welcome.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 14th November 2023.

Minutes taken by Simon Smith