

BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB
MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Tuesday 14th November 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 & Lizzie Taylor~~

Apologies: Chris Wood

Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the incoming Ladies Captain, Sue Battle, to her first Committee meeting.

Blankney Estates – Planning for the Future.

Tim Banks & Lizzie Taylor had given their apologies for not being able to attend tonight’s meeting; so Lizzie Taylor had provided the following report.

The Estate has continued discussions with the Members Sub-Committee (MSC), with the last meeting taking place on 23 October regarding the future options for the Club. The Estate is currently awaiting the next update from the MSC in readiness for a Directors meeting on 5 December. The Estate would like to thank all those on the MSC for their time and commitment to the matters in hand.

We were very sad to see Paul Guilbert leave us on the 29 October. Paul had been a great asset to the Club House and the Club in general. We know he was very grateful for the all the gifts and well wishes he received in his last week. The day to day management of the Club House now falls under Alec as General Manager and he is being greatly assisted by Julie. Any queries relating to bookings for the Club House should be passed to Alec so that he can liaise with Julie and the team.

We would like to thank the membership in advance of this coming winter season for their support with the revised buggy/trolley policy and the gradual reintroduction of mats. It has been great to see the course recovery with all things seeming to be working with us, as opposed to against us, as we saw last year.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd October 2023 were agreed and approved (with one minor amendment).

Proposed by Paul Finley and seconded by John Dempster

Matters arising from the last meeting:

Rule Book update – The Rule book had been published, but the final edition does not reflect the current thinking on how the Club Captain is appointed. In future, it was agreed that should the Club Captain be male, then there would also be a Ladies Captain, and if the Club Captain was female then there would also be a Gents Captain. The usual nomination forms would be placed on the notice board prior to the AGM, allowing for nominations to be made for all these positions on the Committee. This will be subject to the Ladies Section moving their AGM in line with the Club AGM in February each year. This will align all the Captain's appointments at the same time of the year.

Information Board for the 1st tee – the draft designs will be considered again, when the course has been re-measured and any changes to the Slope Index of the course, determined, in the new year.

New Tee markers and slope ratings – will be included in discussions prior to the proposed course re-measure in the Spring. It was also suggested that some of the white tees need moving forward to allow a possible tee position at least 10 yards behind the markers. This would allow more use of the teeing areas. A 9 hole course could also be officially measured. It was suggested that a new sign is needed on the 16th tee to allow possible “9 hole” players to filter in.

Correspondence:

none

Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) provided the following report:

Expenditure since last meeting:

A & B Team social match expenditure £402.14 (this was paid for out of the A & B Team prize fund, leaving a balance of £122.86)

200 Club Prizes for November £160 leaving a balance for Dec of £165

Income

Ladies Comps levy £130.50

Seniors Comps levy £49.50 (Seniors Invite day)

There is currently £737.90 due for Comp's Levys from BE, and this has been requested, due for payment very soon.

The current total of net funds available = £ 9578.89 which takes into account the accrued Comps income, and the balance of 200 Club prizes to be paid out in December, the payment due from the Captain's Charity of £1281.00 , and the balance held on behalf of the A & B Team prize fund of £122.86

The photographer has been to take the incoming Captain's photos, ready for next year, starting with Sue Battle being appointed Ladies' Captain at the Ladies' AGM on 21st November. It is also hoped that the Ladies' Past Captain photos will be able to be updated, subject to all the missing photos being provided.

Competitions Report

Paul Sirrell gave the following report:

- All details for Presentation evening passed to Club Captain Nige Saunders and list of outstanding prizes sent to Pro Shop for them to provide Pro Shop Vouchers to be presented on the evening.
- Winter League ready to start at the weekend with first matches Sunday 19th November, good luck to all involved.
- Club Xmas Texas Scramble is open for entry after liaison with Alec to ensure all provisions and timings are suitable for all.

Fixtures Report:

Kev O'Rourke presented the following report:

Fixtures have been released for the A/B team matches next season. A team has 8 matches, B team 6. One B team fixture may need to be altered from July 13 due to a clash with the club championship. Rearrangement in progress.

Sunrise stableford has been switched to June 15th – this avoids clashes with both Gents and Ladies matches on 22nd

Gents friendly matches are now all confirmed, following a late change this week to the home match against Newark – now July 25th.

Open competitions have been defined and allocated dates. I believe the club secretary is submitting the application forms to Golf empire.

Lincs bomber competition will be a club members only event in 2024.

Handicaps Report

John Dempster asked Alec B to send out an email to members, reminding them that holes 2 & 3 are out of play currently, and are therefore non qualifying for handicap purposes. There are also issues with the score markers within the system, and Terry McCarthy will advise WHS of these problems.

Course Managers Report:

John Hart advised that rainfall for October was 162mm and November 29mm to date.

The golf course is holding up well after the considerable rainfall over the last few months. The water on the 2nd hole is very slowly draining away. The green staff are currently in the middle of leaf picking which will continue in the coming weeks. The greens have recovered well after maintenance and have been treated with a preventative fungicide and an Autumn/Winter treatment will be applied when conditions are right.

John's intention is to spray iron around the fairways to define the fairways from the first cut of rough, this will turn dark/black and should be visible almost immediately. It is intentional to keep the fairways longer this winter on the back of last year's issues. The committee agreed with John to introduce fairway mats as compulsory in advance of the start of the winter league.

General Manager's Report:

Alec Bradley gave the following report:

- **Mats** are 'loosely' back in play from Saturday 4th November, members are encouraged to use if needed as we've had a lot of requests. (We've listened) This isn't compulsory as of yet, John will review and indicate when this will become mandatory for all golfers. Overall, we're ahead of the curve as last Winter 23 Feb we went onto the Spirk Mats, along with the divot bags we are all making a huge difference to the condition of the fairways especially after record rainfall figures during October, with being very soft underfoot and many other courses closed for play. We are open!
- **BRS Club Diary** with colour ways for sections and tee sheet for 2024 has been populated and still awaiting confirmation of Team match details with A and B teams no doubt to follow. The Open feature on the website has been/will be enhanced, to try and make this stand out more than it was.
- **Opens for 2024** new dates have been pencilled in awaiting website functions to be tweaked via Conor/Adam FD. As we've discussed to try and make it even easier to enter an Open Competition at Blankney, further event details to be more precise upon entry. Thank you to Simon Smith, Kevin O Rourke and Nigel Saunders for input here. Entries will go 'live' shortly.
- **Winter League starts 19th November** with healthy entry.
- **Staff news:** Paul Guilbert has now departed the business, Annie Woolley is away from F and B for a few weeks through and at home convalescing after a small procedure, we wish her well. Diane Hart will also be out of office from 13th December with her second Hip replacement, good luck to Di we all wish her well here also.
- **New Initiatives:** Saturday 25th November I'm running our first new members competition, 18 hole social with new members taking part and with a few club committee members playing if you're available.
- **Free Ladies Beginners** class taster session on December 2nd 1-2pm. Another way to try and create this pathway into golf for Ladies at Blankney.
- **Bar and Catering.** We're currently running at low offerings from this section and will review new menus through to the new season upon staff return end of this month.
- **Golf Genius TEST ROLL UP roll up.** Saturday 18th November we are trialling this for members as a soft working trial.

I've included a link to Eagle golf with new course signage options for 2024. I'm aware that this has sat for too long, the parked welcome board is pending too.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/623b06f97409582373e33732/t/651bdafbc51f36da8de4d05/1696324370827/Eagle+Brochure.pdf>

Looking forward to attend the GCMA conference this month, catching up with fellow industry colleagues, listening to key guest speakers, and generally looking at ways I can improve members experience at Blankney with new and innovative ideas.

Captain's Report

Club Captain Nigel Saunders was happy with the position of the bell on the 4th hole. The Pro/Captain's Day has been re-arranged at Ruffold Park for Friday 1st March. Further discussions have taken place regarding Open comps, trying to encourage more people to enter. It seems more popular to offer meals after play rather than a coffee and a bacon roll beforehand - this needs to be looked at closely to see what can be made available whilst also keeping prices reasonable.

Ladies' Section:

Congratulations were offered to Terry McCarthy our Ladies president, on becoming the Lincolnshire Women's Golf Association President. Thanks were also given to Terry for her contribution to the Committee over the last year and for representing the Ladies Section in the absence of a Ladies' Captain.

Sue Battle, the incoming Ladies Captain, advised on the forthcoming Bring and Give Texas scramble in December - if anyone would like to donate non-perishable foodstuffs for a local food bank, then this would be very welcome. A large food hamper will be raffled off on the day and this is open to anyone to enter.

Seniors' Section report:

Paul Finley, Senior's Captain, gave a full report on the results of all the Senior's Friendly inter-club matches played throughout the season.

The summary totals were: Wins 7 , Losses 16, 2 Draws & 1 Game cancelled.

Paul wished to point out that for nearly every match, the Blankney Seniors were having to give many more shots under the handicap rules, than they received overall. This seemed to ultimately effect the results. Paul felt it important to point this out, as it is somewhat disheartening for a lot of the players who will play and attempt the impossible. (So ignoring the handicaps, its obvious that the Blankney Seniors were much better players overall, but slightly thwarted by the handicap rules.)

Paul went on to thank all of the players, and the Vice Captain, Graham Fletcher, for their continued support throughout the season. Even though they did have to suffer Paul's attempts at getting all the players names correct.

The full report on all the Match results is available on the Seniors' noticeboard in the clubhouse.

Juniors' Section:

Junior organiser, Chris Wood, was not at the meeting, but it was noted that 3 new juniors had joined the club.

House & Social:

Julian Peckham was disappointed with the shorter winter opening hours of the club house, and the lack of provisions from the kitchen is also difficult for some members to understand. The front of house staff are however being very accommodating, often providing service after the stated times. Plus sourcing catering products from alternative outlets. Jules, Donna, and Anita are doing a great job under challenging circumstances. Layla is also a great addition to the team and we hope to see more of her front of house.

Regardless of the challenges we are forging ahead with our social programme, with the following Events:

Sat November 25th - Club presentation evening 18:30 followed by Robbie and Freddie tribute act.

Sat December 9th - Christmas Bingo. 1900 - 2200

Sat December 16th - Christmas Draw and social, after Texas Scramble
Fri December 29th - Christmas Quiz 1900 - 2300
Sat January 27th – 70’ss Evening including solo ABBA tribute 1900 - 2330
Sat February 24th - Annual Black Tie Club Dinner Dance @ The Lincoln Hotel
Sat March 16th – 80’s Evening including Gary Barlow tribute 1900 - 2330

As stated in our previous report we hope to use some of the funds generated by house and social events, to offer discounted dinner dance tickets to members and their guests. Ticket prices for the Annual Dinner in February were discussed and agreed at £45 for members and £55 for guests. It was also agreed the Committee would support the staff with ticket subsidies.

Any Other Business:

Dates and times for future Committee meetings were discussed, and it was agreed start future meetings at 4pm, in view of the planned earlier closing times of the clubhouse.

Member’s “Hole in One” achievements could be awarded with a Certificate or momento. Discussion ensued, and Alec suggested he ask (via the usual forums) what other clubs do. Watch this space!

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.15pm

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 12th December @ 4pm

Per RT v2. 24.11.23