

BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB

MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 @ 4pm in the Clubhouse

Present:

Chairman – Lynda Ramscar, **Club Captain** – Nigel Saunders, **Ladies Captain** – Sue Battle, **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/Lizzie Taylor, **Welfare Officer** - Simon Tindall.

Apologies:

Chairman, General Manager (GM), Blankney Estates, House & Social and Welfare Officer.

Chairman's Welcome:

The Secretary chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and welcomed everyone.

Blankney Estates (BE) – Planning for the Future

As this meeting has fallen so close to the last one in December there is little further to report at this time. Discussions are ongoing with both parties and, as soon as there is more to report, we will do so. We hope to make good progress this month, during which there is a meeting between BE and the Membership Sub Committee.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th December 2023 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by: Seniors Captain Seconded by: Ladies Captain

Matters arising from the last meeting:

Hole-in-one recognition ideas.

Awaiting feedback from GM.

Golf Genius (GG) - system for booking golf competitions.

GM requested to provide a Club lead for Golf Genius and organise in-house training to section representatives.

AGM 23 Feb 24 Planning – AGM notices will be placed on the noticeboard next to the Pro Shop imminently. Nominations are open for Treasurer, Secretary & Competitions Secretary.

Correspondence

Nil.

Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report

Transactions since last meeting:

Income:	£
Competition Levies from BE	737.90
Cash banked from Captain's Charity Bottle	344.62
Music Night cash 25 Nov 23	374.00
Deposit Acct Interest (annual)	63.19
Cash deposit – music night surplus	45.00
Cash deposit – Christmas Draw	270.00
Additional Income Due (Final 2023 competition levies)	108.00
Expenditure:	£
Staff Christmas bonuses	480.00
White Lion photos – Captains 2024	83.38
Chairman – cash 2 extra staff bonuses	60.00
Xmas bonus to Steve McGinty for H&S/Competitions work	50.00
Dementia UK – Captain's Charity Cheque	1625.62
Nett funds available at: 31 st Dec 23	9607.46

The year-end accounts at 31st Dec 23 are being completed and will be passed to Paul Reeve for audit, ready for the AGM on Friday 23rd February.

Discussion is needed on the Ladies Accounts being combined with the Club accounts, as they don't have a Treasurer. In principle it should be feasible, but it then increases my workload, so I would then not stand for re-election as Secretary at the AGM.

Treasurer, Lady Captain, Chairman and Jackie Davies to meet and discuss.

Competitions Report

The Winter League restarts on 14th Jan following the festive break.

Fixtures Report

Mike Barton will captain the A team and Kev O'Rourke the B team, for the 2024 season.

B team fixture v Belton Park GC rearranged from 13 Jul to 10 Aug. Gents friendly v Newark GC rearranged from 27 Jul to 25 Jul. All Gents friendlies now finalised. Final diary adjustments to be agreed with Pro Shop and uploaded to Club diary (labelled correctly i.e. Friendly/A/B/Gents/Ladies, opposition team, home/away and tee time allocation). Club/Pro shop roll-up competitions have been scheduled and will deconflict with any charity/open/club competitions/matches.

Handicap Secretary

Nothing significant to report, however it had been noted that for the 23rd Dec 2023 Club Roll-up competition, 10 scores had been entered for the competition on Golf Genius which were subsequently recorded on England Golf as records for Handicap purposes. As we are not currently a qualifying course the 10 scores have been deleted from the individual records. There is a similar issue that was encountered last year using the EG app, where scores were allowed to be entered. I do not have access to Golf Genius and am unable to switch off the Tee Markers which allow Golf Genius to be used, recording scores as non-qualifying, therefore not affecting Handicaps. Whoever can do this needs to be done with immediate effect.

GM – see Matters Arising (GG).

General Manager Report

The Club enjoyed a busy Christmas and New Year period, with the tee sheet in high demand most days. On speaking to other General Manager's across the East Midlands they speak of how many days they have been closed due to rain; Blankney is open for play (barring the 2nd), how very lucky we are!

Exposing the facility to visitors may prove to be our best marketing tool as the golf network word spreads. Visitors that register with us are informed of the local rules, including that 'mats' are in full use, we are basing this on self-policing golfers respecting the rule, I am aware some do not. We will continue to have conversations and market our message, however, thankfully many do use the mats and collectively this will help in present the course to a good standard once we all see the season starting.

The use of mats was discussed in AOB and the GM is requested to investigate whether all visitors to register in the Pro Shop and if not, is it possible for them to do so.

The recent wet conditions have emphasised that we are an attractive membership possibility; open 12 months, self-draining and challenging greens. A real club atmosphere over the festive period and the the "noise" that many ex-members may return to enjoy their golf again with us, time will tell.

The club website now has the Media and Gallery section on the front cover, this will house the promotional videos and stunning course imagery. If anyone has any course pictures they would like to share, please send them our way.

Kevin O'Rourke (Fixtures) is meeting up with us next week to go through a final fixture check next week. Open entry forms have been cleaned up some more, all opens are now 'live' to enter.

Fixtures Sec and Club Captain meeting with the Pro Shop this week.

Course update with John and team, they are aware of moss in greens on a few surfaces and when conditions are optimal for treatment to start, they will do so, as the recent rainfall has restricted the cutting access particularly the temporary greens, cutting would only be a detriment action here so please we are aware of this.

Course Manager (CM) Report

Rainfall	mm
December	129
2023 Total	911
January	43

Recent storms resulted in some damaged trees, they and considerable debris have been cleared. The very wet conditions have also delayed treatment of the greens, hopefully the weather will settle and allow the greens to be treated in the coming weeks. The 2nd hole has been hit hard due to the rain and will be closed indefinitely. The rain also effected the bunkers and staff are busy replacing sand. On Sunday morning (7 Jan) a divot was identified on the 18th green. We are looking to level and lift some tees in the coming weeks.

The subject of course rating review was raised and in addition to the points raised at the 14 Nov meeting (white tee markers, white/yellow 9 hole course), it was agreed that the course must be rated for men and women off the red and yellow tees respectively and, rated as a winter course.

Captain Report

The Pro Captains Challenge is rearranged for 01 Mar 24 at Rufford Park GC and the near future, I will make detailed arrangements for the day.

Ladies Section Report

The Lady Captain stated that the Ladies Section accounts was her main concern.

See Treasurers report.

Junior Organiser Report

We have joined the Golf Sixes local league and still pushing to link in with local schools. During the current quiet period, I am looking to improve communications with the Junior members. The Secretary/Treasurer emphasised that the committee can and will support the Junior Section.

Seniors Section Report

The Seniors Captain reported that some members of the senior section are unsure of where to book tee times.

BRS is the default system for booking tee times, if in doubt, contact the Pro Shop.

House and Social Report

December was a very busy month for Social Events, we are pleased that the Xmas Draw was again very successful (~600 tickets sold/30 prize winners) and holding the draw on the day of the Xmas Scramble proved very rewarding due to a Shotgun Start (£100 of tickets were sold on the day). Tickets for the Easter Draw will be on sale from February. The Festive Quiz held on 29 December was very popular with around 80 (adults and children) in attendance. Both events returned a good profit.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 27th January - the return of Singer Fiona Shaw, singing 'Tributes' to ABBA and the 70's and 80's, tickets are available at £10 which includes refreshments.

Saturday 24th February - Annual Dinner Dance at the Lincoln Hotel, tickets are available at the Bar (cash only) and full details of table sign-up sheets, menu choices etc. can be found on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse.

Saturday 9th March – Captains Drive-In – refreshments will be provided.

Saturday 16th March – 'Mr Barlow Evening'

The Wi-Fi in the Clubhouse is still 'intermittent' and unreliable and for the last two weeks the 'Blankney Bulletin' has not been received by the Club's Social members.

General Manager to investigate and report back to the committee.

Any Other Business

Use of fairways mats and increase in divots on the course.

It is obvious that not all members & visitors are using mats, as divots can still be seen on the fairways.

This frustrating matter was discussed at length and agreed that it should be: self-policed by the membership, emphasised in the newsletter, consider a sanction such as a temporary ban, be introduced as a deterrent and ensure all visitors are aware.

The Club Welfare Officer (Simon Tindall) was invited to attend to meeting but sent his apologies, we hope to welcome Simon to the next meeting.

The Senior's Captain offered to assist the CM in tidying up around tee boxes. The CM welcomed this initiative.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.20pm.

Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 6th February 2024.

Minutes taken by Simon Smith.