

**BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB**  
**MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 @ 7pm in the Clubhouse**

**Present:**

**Chairman** – Lynda Ramscar, **Club Captain** – Nigel Saunders **Ladies Captain** – Sue Battle  
~~**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** – Lizzie Taylor

**Apologies:** John Dempster, Alec Bradley, Julian Peckham

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the earlier meeting start time of 4pm, And wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

**Blankney Estates – Planning for the Future.**

Lizzie Taylor outlined the current position on the future of the club.

Since the last Committee meeting, things have continued to move forward in a positive manner. At the Directors Meeting on 5th December three options were considered for the Club:

- Continue dialogue with a third party that has expressed interest in taking on the Club.
- Continue dialogue with the MSC who have put forward an option for consideration.
- Agree to continue the Club 'as is' under Estate control.

Having reviewed the information available to them, the Directors wish to wholeheartedly continue dialogue with the two parties that have put forward proposals. This leaves in the Club in a very positive position with two encouraging options. As we are sure you understand, large aspects of these discussions have to remain confidential for commercial reasons. At such a time that more information can be shared we will actively seek to do so as we know any update on the future of the Club is paramount to the members.

Lizzie Taylor also confirmed that if a previous member of the golf club, who had paid their joining fee, wanted to re-join Blankney Golf Club, then no further joining fee would be charged. It was also noted that Newark GC fees were being increased substantially for 2024, and it was hoped some previous members who moved to Newark GC, would return to Blankney.

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Nigel Saunders and seconded by Sue Battle

### Matters arising from the last meeting:

- Club Website. The on-course video on the website is very professional, but it's a shame it is too short and too quick, but it seems it's too costly to amend it though.
- Catering / food options for Opens. Current Opens are detailed on the website, with some to include coffee and bacon rolls before play. It would be too difficult to offer a full meal after play currently, due to current staffing issues. Nige Saunders will help Alec on the organisation of the Opens.
- Hole in One moment/certificate ideas? Awaiting Alec's research
- Golf Genius implementation..... still under trial. The Ladies & the Seniors have used it, and think it works well.
- John Hart has now installed the new sign on the 16<sup>th</sup> tee to allow filtering on players from the 6<sup>th</sup> hole.

**Correspondence:** None

### Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) provided the following report:

Income since last meeting:

14.11.23	20	Comp Levy's from BE	737.90
		Cash banked from Capt Charity bottle on	
28.11.23	21	the bar	344.62
29.11.23	22	Music Night cash Sat 25th Nov	374.00
26.11.23	23	Deposit acct interest ( paid yearly)	63.19

Thanks to the Social committee for putting on the Music night after the Presentation evening, raising £374. It was well attended and an enjoyable evening.

The Captain's Charity fund now stands at £1625.62

Expenditure

Captain's photo frames mounts - Imageville Ruskington	13.50
copy paper	4.75
ink cartridge ( MSC)	26.99
200 Club prizes - December	170.00

The 200 Club has now been concluded for 2023, raising £1120 for club funds. Prize details will be reported in this week's Blankney Bulletin. Many thanks to all those members who contributed to the 200 Club this year.

Captain's photos. Sue Battle's Ladies' Captain photo is now on the wall in the clubhouse. Others ready for the AGM, and Ladies Past Captains ready. Invoice in from Carol Whitelion Photo £83.38  
The net funds available = £ 9965.84 Taking into account the Captain's Charity fund of £1625.62 and The A & B Team prize fund of £122.86

### **Competitions Report**

Paul Sirrell advised that 30 teams have entered the Xmas Texas Scramble. The Winter league is progressing well, but no extra weeks are available to cover the cancelled week through bad weather.

### **Fixtures Report:**

Kev O'Rourke advised that the Fixtures list for next year appears complete, with a few recent changes to allow several Ladies events to take place on favoured dates.

We still have no mixed friendlies scheduled, but this is under review.

The Gents friendly away at Newark, had to be rescheduled from May 2 to May 23 due to a fixture clash at their end.

The Crane Salver (Husband/wife) rescheduled from March 23 to April 6.

A suggestion for the joint Gents/Ladies Invitation to each other is for a sign up list for those players who may like to take part but don't know a Gent/Lady well enough to invite!

I've sent my latest diary spreadsheet to Alec and am happy to go through the diary to aid with any amendments.

**Handicaps Report** Nothing to report.

### **Course Managers Report:**

John Hart advised that Rainfall for November is 69mm and December to date 56mm. I have calculated the total rainfall for the year up to 11/12/23 and it is an astounding 33.52 inches, the average yearly rainfall at Blankney is between 22-23 inches. Leaf season is almost over with just the odd area that will require picking occasionally. There has been some wind damage to trees on the golf course on Saturday evening, one behind the 16th green, a large limb fell between the 14th and 15th and the top of a tree blown out at the rear of the 18th, which will have to be felled.

After a meeting with the Executive on the 23rd of November it was decided to lift and level some tee boxes. I will not commit to a number at the moment but will look at what tees need attention.

Turfing to bare areas and around bunkers will also be on the agenda this winter. We are currently spiking the greens at the moment which is desperately needed after all the rainfall.

When conditions are right, a winter feed/tonic will be applied to the greens. This is in liquid form and requires the weather to be favourable.

The mat policy and the new frost restrictions policies are now in place, can we encourage members and visitors to follow the guidelines as we have had a number of trolleys and buggies ignoring the guidelines, it's for the benefit of all.

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

Alec Bradley was not at the meeting, but had previously circulated his report: The summary of which being:

- Website video has been positively received by most. This will help to market the club to potential new members.
- It is hoped to send out a further Members survey in the New Year.
- Golf Genius has been tried by most sections of the club, and should go fully live in early 2024
- In house catering is under review, and additional catering options could be offered if additional catering staff are appointed. More food options could then be added to Open events.
- Regular monthly meetings are planned with all sections of the club, to clarify catering requirements for forthcoming matches etc.

### **Captain's Report**

Club Captain Nigel Saunders was pleased to report more positive comments about the course, from visitors. The A Team is currently lacking a Captain for next year, so a new appointment is required.

### **Ladies' Section:**

Ladies Captain Sue Battle advised that following the Ladies AGM, the Ladies Committee are now without a permanent Treasurer and Secretary. Consideration could be given to the Ladies finances and accounts being merged with the Clubs Comps & Social Accounts. The date of next year's ladies' AGM has now been moved to co-inside with the Club AGM in February.

**Seniors' Section report:** Nothing to report, apart from Andy Craft's first "hole in one" !

### **Juniors' Section:**

Chris Wood advised he had had a very useful discussion with Dave Rickaby, who advised that some grant money could be available to assist the Juniors at Blankney. Further information will follow hopefully.

### **House & Social:**

The Estate Quiz has now been re-scheduled for Friday 5th January.  
All other forthcoming Social events are well advertised within the clubhouse, and were reported in last month's Committee Minutes.

**Any Other Business:**

- Planning for the Club's AGM on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, is well under way. Committee positions ( by rotation) up for re-appointment are: Secretary, Treasurer and Competitions Sec. Notices will be displayed on the noticeboard in January. Further information on these Committee positons, is available from the Chairman ( Lynda Ramscar) or the Secretary ( Richard Tasker). Please note that Nominations for any of these positions must be displayed on the noticeboard at least 21 days before the AGM. The full rules covering the Election of Committee Members are contained within the Club Rule Book, copies of which, are available in the Pro Shop.
- A Xmas bonus of £30 for each staff member, with a minimum of 12 months service, was discussed and agreed by the Committee.
- Lizzie Taylor advised that the Estate are having their usual staff social and drinks in the clubhouse on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 1pm onwards, and all Committee members are invited. It was also suggested that the current Committee should arrange some social golf with meal after for all current Committee members, prior to the AGM.
- Please note that Diane Hart, the Club Secretary is now away from work, for her hip operation, and could be off for 6 to 8 weeks. In her absence, Lizzie is monitoring her emails, and Alec is well prepared on any issues that may arise.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 4.50 pm

**Date of Next meeting:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January @ 4pm

Per RT v 10.01.24