

BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB
MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 @ 2pm in the Clubhouse

Present:

Chairman – Lynda Ramskar, **Club Captain** – Nigel Saunders **Ladies Captain** – Sue Battle
Professional/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's Captain** – Paul Finley
Blankney Estates – Lizzie Taylor & Tim Banks
MSC Members : John Wood, Steve Grundy, Terry Bentley, Ant Powell
Incoming Vice Captain: Kev Jackson

Apologies: Kev O'Rourke, Simon Tindell

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including the members of the Members Sub Committee.

Blankney Estates – Planning for the Future.

Tim Banks confirmed that the committee and the MSC met representatives from the Estate for an update prior to this meeting and confirmed that full details of the intended changes to the club will be announced at the forthcoming AGM.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th January 2024 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by John Dempster and seconded by Paul Sirrell.

Matters arising from the last meeting:

- Club Website. There are still a few areas on the website that need updating. These include the club matches on the diary & Committee details and photos. It was felt that the ChatBot/enquiry option was giving good return on new enquiries, so should stay on the website.
- Hole in One memento/certificate ideas. Alec confirmed that there was a board available to record all Hole in Ones in official competitions.
- Wi-Fi in the club house now working better.
- Course rating review. Due in the Spring. There are a number of options to consider, and a small subcommittee will be formed look into it fully.

Correspondence:

The following items of correspondence have been received:

Key Ross email, asking for a trolley store for members. This will be considered by the Committee, and could form part of a wider member's survey.

Bob Manser's request for more forward tees for the Seniors. This will be discussed within the Course rating review in the Spring.

Michael Hutchinson email asking why guest green fee rates are higher than Golf Now booking rates. This will be fully reviewed, as it doesn't seem right that member's guests are disadvantaged.

Committee Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Richard Tasker (Treasurer) provided the following report:

Transactions since the last Committee meeting:

Income

Final Comps levy from 2023 £133

Cash banked from H & S events:

- Xmas Quiz £365
- Music night 29th Jan £65
- DD ticket money £1500 less £800 retained for the band

Expenditure

Team expenses: Elsham & Bramley entry fees £40 & £35

Lincoln Hotel 70 places at £37 £2590 (83 tickets sold so far)

(BE Staff support payment due 5 staff members @ £30 = £150)

Sth Lincs Golf League entry fees A & B Team £200

Bank Account balances: Current Acct £2112.30 Deposit acct £5856.02

Net balance £7968.32 with £122 retained for A & B Team prizes fund.

Additional funds will come in from DD ticket sales.

Ladies Section Accounts: The ladies Committee do not have a Treasurer, so it has been suggested that the Ladies Accounts are merged into the main Clubs C & S accounts. This to be discussed 14.02.24 11am with RT & some of the Ladies Section committee.

Audited Accounts for 31.12.23 will be completed later this week, ready for the AGM,

Competitions Report

Paul Sirrell, Competitions Secretary advised the following:

- The Final of the Winter League was played on Sunday 11 th February 2024 and John Dempster and Kev Ross were triumphant in a well contested Final against Paul Sirrell & Tim Naylor which went all the way to the 18 th hole. Congratulations to John and Kev on their victory but also a mention for Greg Thurgo who was the Teams 3 rd Man and instrumental in their victory.
- The Ryder Cup Match of the Winter League takes place on Sunday 18 th February 2024 and this will be followed by the post-match meal of Steak Pie, Chips & Peas and the Winter League Presentation. Thanks to all who participated throughout the Winter League and also to Ollie & Layla in the Pro-Shop for their assistance and an even bigger thank you to Souper Steve McGinty for providing us with steaming cups of soup throughout the year. This has resulted in us being able to subsidise the end of Season Meal by £5 per head so the cost per player will now be £10 instead of £15.
- Winter League: last year the Ladies were included, and this proved successful. I think this year's initiative of Teams being allowed a 3rd player was also successful and should continue into future years.
- I will arrange a handover to the incoming Competitions Secretary, once decided, so the necessary early season competitions and Club Knockouts can be advertised in a timely manner.
- The Captains' Drive In is displayed on the main notice board and is filling up quite nicely.

Fixtures Report:

Kev O'Rourke gave his apologies for not attending. But he had previously indicated that the fixtures for 2024 were confirmed, but some amendments are still needed as to how they are shown on the club's website. Alec is aware of this, and has the matter in hand. It is still hoped that some Mixed friendly matches can be arranged.

Handicaps Report Nothing to report, during the quiet winter month's period.

Course Managers Report:

John Hart advised that Rainfall for January 58mm February 56mm.

The greens have been spiked with 12mm solid tines at a depth of 8 inches. They have been treated with iron based Ferokelp which will give a colour and a little feed and will help with the moss. If the weather continues to be mild I will consider an early application of Lawn sand, which usually is applied late February, early March. As always weather will dictate my decision.

The tees have been spiked with 18mm solid tines at a depth of 7 inches and they have also been cut.

Fairway spiking will start this week and I will look to ensure that spiking is beneficial for the fairways, but if it causes any damage/worm cast issues I will review.

The yellow and white tee boxes on the 5th have been lifted, levelled and turfed. Also, the ladies 15th tee box has had the same work carried out.

The second hole is back in play and hopefully this will be in play permanently.

The 10th and 11th fence have been cleared of overhanging branches and ivy and the fence has been repaired in a number of places.

Currently I have a stump grinder on hire to remove stumps on the 1st, 5th and 7th.

I have provided over 150 artificial mats for visitors and members who do not use Spurr mats, at last count there were 5 left! That has come at a cost.

I have been asked to supply soil and seed again but I do not want to give the impression that it is okay not to use mats.

General Manager's Report:

- Mats. The response from all golfers has been very good, there will always tend to be the holes out of view where they may take chance to play from the fairway. The Matted golf course community in the UK seems to have a similar member/visitor behaviour. When booking online the visitors do agree with a tick box that they are aware that Mats are enforced at Blankney, as well as checking in the pro shop and on the 1st tee. I've also sourced a more affordable mat for golfers to use, they will be in stock soon. We will all see the benefits soon with fairways looking immaculate with perfect lies, we were on preferred lies all of 2023, so ideally to lift this is our aim. However, several reports still show that some members and visitors are still not using Mats. It was discussed that visitors should always register in the Pro shop before play, and perhaps have a loan mat (with a deposit payable?) Alec and Chairman Lyn are to work together to solve this issue.
- Golf Genius. Having caught up with head of sections, this is proving to be quite a challenging system to launch not as easy as first thought. Training is still available from GG if desired. Clubv1 has been improved as we're aware for members ease of use, integrating is still the objective. Other systems are available such as IG. Our direction as a club will influence the next steps. Currently parked.
- Hole in One - A space has been discussed with the sign writer within the dining area for official competitive "holes in one" to be recorded for both men's and ladies.
- Fixtures/Opens. Kevin/Ollie and I have audited the tee sheet and fixtures everything is tight and ready to go. We flex where can with teams still. Blankney has been made a featured course on Golf Empires Lincolnshire section; our first Open in April will receive marketing to the membership soon as well as other golfers look in. I will monitor entries weekly and report back to see how we go from here.
- Members/ New and retentions. One of our key USP's has highlighted that with us you get membership value for your subscriptions, this being Drainage. Many venues have struggled with the volume of rain, we continue to attract the golfer that's wants to play 12 months of the year, along with the new frost trolley policy the objective is trending in the right direction. Re joiners have also been welcomed back.

- F and B: Leanne Page has been shadowing Annie in the clubhouse top kitchen for a few weeks and is pleased to be starting with us on Sunday 18th February. Here to provide the normal menu for members/visitors with breakfasts etc., also providing holiday and preparation cover.
- Pro Shop. New stock beginning to arrive for the season, looking at two club fitting days with Ping and Titleist to visit us during the year.
- Golf Course: John has been busy with tees renovations on the 5th and Ladies tee on 15th, levelled and re turfed. Spiking tees/ looking at fairways when optimum. Greens been sprayed for Moss prevention.

Captain's Report

Club Captain Nigel Saunders confirmed that the forthcoming Pro/Captains away day at Rufford was fully booked. Its £35 each to include food.

Nigel went on to say that this was going to be his last Committee meeting as Captain and wished to thank all Committee members for their full support throughout his year. The Chairman responded by saying she wished to echo his comments, and thanked Nigel for his sterling work as Captain throughout his year.

Ladies' Section:

Ladies Captain Sue Battle confirmed things were in hand for the Ladies Captain's drive in. Discussion had taken place with regard to the issue of vouchers as prizes for the Ladies competitions, and that M & S vouchers would only be used in the future for Opens comps.

Seniors' Section report:

Paul Finley, the Senior's Captain, apologised for being late. He advised that this was nearly his last meeting on the Committee, as the new Seniors Captain would be appointed at the Senior's AGM on Monday 11th March. Paul wished to thank the Committee for their support during his year. He has thoroughly enjoyed his year, and wished BGC all the best for the future. Chairman Lyn thanked Paul for his successful year, and wished him well for the future.

Juniors' Section:

Chris Wood advised he has a Golf Lincs meeting planned soon at Home Hall GC. He has been busy setting up a new WhatsApp group to help organise the Juniors.

House & Social:

Julian Peckham reported that arrangements were well in hand for the forthcoming Dinner Dance at The Lincoln Hotel on Sat 24th February. Tickets have sold well, but we are still slightly short of the original target number.

There is also a further music night planned at the club for Sat 16th March, a Gary Barlow tribute act.

Any Other Business:

- AGM Planning was well in hand. The Committee vacancy nomination forms have now been removed from the noticeboard, in accordance with the Rule Book dates. The Agenda is drafted out, ready for the final Agenda point regarding the “Future of the Club”.
- Chairman Lynda Ramskar advised the Committee that following the formation of the Members Sub Committee (MSC), the future of the club has now been discussed by the MSC with BE, and the formal proposal has been put forward for the Members to take over the running of the club from Blankney Estates. Therefore this recommendation from the MSC back to the full Committee needs to be formally approved. It was therefore put to the vote, and passed unanimously. No one voted against, as it was felt this was the right plan of action to adopt for the future of the club. Full details will be announced to the Members at the forthcoming AGM.
- Richard pointed out to Alec that the EL & PL insurance certificates, and the Safeguarding Compliance certificate were out of date on the noticeboard. Alec said he would replace them with the current ones.
- Ant Powell raised the point about Mats being used on the course, and that they should continue to be used for the time being, even in Competitions. John Hart reminded everyone that England Golf dictate the dates for “preferred Lies on fairways, and this normally extended to 1st May. Course conditions dictate our own use of mats etc. And if we need to request an extension of the use of preferred lies. And the Committee expressed the view that it was up to the Course Manager to decide on such possible dates.
- An email had been received from Andy Goodwin about the lack of weekend singles competitions for members. This was a very interesting point to be raised, and will be considered carefully by the Committee.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 4.15 pm

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 5th March @ 4pm

Per RT v 22.02.24