

**BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB**  
**MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 4pm in the Clubhouse**

**Present:**

**Chairman** – Lynda Ramscar, **Club Captain** – Simon Smith, **Ladies Captain** – Sue Battle, **General Manager** – Alec Bradley, **Course Manager** - John Hart, **Fixtures Sec** – Kev O’Rourke, **Secretary** - Anne Smith, **Treasurer** – Richard Tasker, **Vice Capt** – Kev Jackson, ~~**House & Social** – Julian Peckham~~, **Comps Sec** – Dave Marriott, **Handicap Sec** – John Dempster, **Junior Organiser** – Chris Wood, **Senior’s Captain** – Graham Fletcher, **Past Captain** - Nige Saunders, ~~**Welfare Officer** – Simon Tindall~~. **Blankney Estates** – Lizzie Taylor, **MSC Members** - Terry Bentley, Ant Powell.

**Apologies:** Julian Peckham, Simon Tindall.

**Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including the new committee members for 2024.

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

BE stated that BE and the MSC continue to make progress and are in the process of appointing solicitors. The 2024/2025 subscription letters will be released in the near future.

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Past Captain and seconded by Handicap Secretary.

**Matters arising from the last meeting:**

**Club Website**

The General Manager (GM) stated that the Club website diary was being updated and the GM requested photos from the committee members for the website.

**Action** – Committee members to forward a photo to the GM by 31<sup>st</sup> March 24.

**Ladies Section Accounts**

The Treasurer met with the Ladies Section, regarding the amalgamation of the Ladies Accounts. It was agreed that the Ladies balance would be recorded separately as part of the main club accounts. The Ladies committee are meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March to discuss whether there will be a Ladies Treasurer in place.

**Action** – Treasurer and Ladies Section to report back at next committee meeting.

**Hole in One memento/certificate ideas** – Closed.

### **Course rating review**

The GM confirmed that the course rating review will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and a sub-committee will be formed and will meet before the review.

### **Fairway Mats**

The GM stated that there is now a system in place for visitors to obtain and return fairway mats. It was agreed that a sign would be generated to state that there are course marshals on the course.

**Action** – Course Manager (CM) to arrange for a sign.

### **Review of Correspondence from previous meeting**

#### **Trolley Storage**

As it stands there is no identifiable space for trolley storage, but this request will be borne in mind by the committee for the future.

#### **Visitors Green Fees**

See GM report.

### **Correspondence**

Nil

### **Treasurer's Report**

Audited Accounts for yr end 31.12.23 presented and accepted at AGM.

Paul Reeves audit fee £50 paid 28.02.24

Race to Woodhall Spa entry fee paid £ 90.00 (Alistair Riddell & Anne Smith)

Dinner Dance subsidy confirmed at £355.

Comps money credit of £39.90 has appeared in the bank account. That needs clarification.

**Action** – BE confirmed credit of £39.90 is for the Ladies Section, Treasurer to rectify.

The Captain requested confirmation of allocated funds for each Section's Captains day/weekend.

**Action** - Treasurer to confirm at next meeting.

Current Balance of Club funds: Current a/c £3827 Deposit A/c £5856

### **Competitions Report**

Thank you for accepting me onto the committee in this role. I have set up an email address, [blankneycompsec@gmail.com](mailto:blankneycompsec@gmail.com), for all issues relating to competitions. A sub-committee has been established and consists of Gail Powell (Ladies), John Wood (Seniors), Dave Coucill (Mixed comps and matches), and John Dempster. I plan to hold sub-committee meetings each Thursday prior to the club committee meeting and will liaise with the fixtures secretary to ensure future competitions are loaded on to the relevant system.

Qualifiers cannot be played until fairways are clearly defined, we change the mats policy and, tees are moved to their correct positions.

For the Gents competitions we have focussed on non-qualifying competitions until April. The definition of 'roll-up' is book your own tee times and pay in the Pro Shop before play.

I would like to see increased entries into competitions and will assess the effectiveness of a sign-up sheet on the notice board for each competition, HDID will still be the main route for entries. The main purpose of the sheet to advertise that the competition is now live.

I have opened an X account (@BGCCCompetitions) and will liaise with the GM to ensure information is relayed through the Blankney Golf Club X account. Additional roll-up competitions have been added to the club diary.

Competition qualifying criteria was discussed, it was identified that different sections have differing numbers of qualifying rounds required for their competitions.

**Action** – Competition Secretary to liaise with all sections to ensure all sections use the same criteria.

## **Fixtures Report**

A list of suggested amendments was given to the Pro shop a few weeks ago, as yet the club diary does not appear to reflect the list. Discussion with the CS has resulted in 2 imminent Sunday comps, Greensomes on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar and a Scramble on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar (both open to all members). There are some spare Sundays in March available for perhaps roll-ups, which can be run from Pro shop, as it stands these competitions will be non-qualifier. The suggested amendments contain many roll-ups suggested for Tuesday/Fridays so that members can sign up and play a qualifying round. The label attached to these events needs to be clarified and uniform.

Whether or not additional stableford comps should be offered on some Saturdays was discussed and this subject will be discussed further at the next meeting. We could label them "Saturday Stablefords" as a suggestion. As not everybody may be free to play some Sunday comps a Saturday option could be popular.

Belton Park and Belton Woods have been in touch to arrange friendly matches, we are open to these as Gents or Mixed fixtures. The fixtures secretary will continue to liaise with other clubs.

## **Handicaps Report**

I have not a lot to report, however 2 scores have had to be deleted from WHS last month. The individuals were unaware that the course was not of a qualifying standard and were able to login to HDID and record the scores.

I was under the impression that all platforms had been disabled for qualifying scores.

**Note** - Since the meeting HDID has been disabled for qualifying and general play cards.

## **Course Manager's Report**

### Rainfall

February 112mm - March 5mm

Course holding up well after another rainy month. This week the forecast is dry so this will help. The second hole remains closed until further notice. The greens have been spiked again. On Tuesday an application of lawn sand will be applied, and this will help with moss and also provide a light feed. In the coming weeks the greens will be verti-cut for thatch and moss removal. The bunkers have and will continue to be strimmed and edged with sand top up where required. Some pathways have been repaired with holes filled in, this will continue this week. New practice net has been installed. The bridge on the practice area has been fully replaced.

The Captain stated many members are asking when we will no longer use mats and the fairways be cut. The CM stated that as the water table remains high, cutting the fairways is not currently viable and is weather dependant as is the removable of the use of fairway mats. The CM stated that he intends to cut the tees and aprons in the near future. The Captain also queried whether the CM would look to expand the size of the greens. CM stated that the application of lawn sand is the start of this process. Ladies Captain commented the bell on the back of the 4<sup>th</sup> green needed repairing. CM confirmed that this was complete.

CS stated that the fairways had become narrow in places. CM stated that this was due to the damage on the course last year and they will be extended out again,

PC stated that there were issues in the main car park over the weekend, due to the overflow car park being too soft for vehicles.

**Action** - CM to discuss with BE before next meeting.

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

BRS Hotdeal prices have been discussed with the company direct, and I've been assured that they will not drop lower than the member guest signed in rate (£25 and £30 respectively). I'll monitor and ensure BRS are true to their agreement.

Course rating review - Monday May 20<sup>th</sup> the date has been provisionally pencilled in and awaiting confirmation. Di Rafferty will I'm sure provide some informative course insights, thank you to those who'd like to be on site this day.

Following a member's request for more individual qualifying competitions, the diary has been reviewed and 'pro shop' / roll-up stablefords have been added to this year's fixtures. Overall, for 2025 a more evenly spread fixture list should be considered with an earlier list confirmed for next year, through a streamlined approach.

Guest Mats - The Pro Shop now administer Spirk Mats for visitors, they pay a refundable deposit for the price of the mat, which can be refunded after play. If not returned, we haven't lost out. Use of Mats is still in play for as long as John sees fits. Other local venues have now lifted this restriction.

Website - Updated with new committee members, along with safe golf certificate updated.

Direction of Club - Last week's AGM has been greatly received by all who attended with many excited for the future of the new Member/Estate Structure.

The GM also advised that the logo on some Pro Shop merchandise only included the Blankney Tree and not "Blankney Golf Club" above and "1904" below. Concerns were expressed and the committee felt that the logo with just the Blankney Tree does not fully represent Blankney Golf Club.

**Action** – GM to circulate to the committee a copy of the Club logo copyright.

The subject for reduced range ball costs for members was discussed.

**Action** – GM to investigate.

### **Captain's Report**

The Ladies Captain and I have 116 members for the drive-in this Saturday, looking forward to the day.

I will be attending a South Lincs League meeting 11 Mar with A and B Team Captains.

### **Ladies' Section**

The Ladies' Captain is looking forward to her drive-in this Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Seniors' Section**

The Seniors Captain thanked the Chairman for welcoming him to the committee. He is looking forward to his drive-in on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. The Chair stated that she cannot make the day but hopes it goes well.

### **Juniors' Section**

Junior Organiser stated that Blankney Golf Club (do not have to be members) will be entered into the Mid-Lincolnshire Golf Sixes. He also stated that 19 juniors were at the most recent class last weekend.

### **House & Social**

Dinner Dance cost approx. £400, thanks to all that helped especially Tom Patrick who did a great job as MC. Port and sausage rolls for the two drive ins ordered at a cost of 50p/sausage roll £10 / bottle port. An 80's evening will be held on 16th March, including a Gary Barlow tribute with a glass of fizz on arrival, assistance with ticket sales would be appreciated. Tickets are £10 and available from behind the bar. Easter Draw tickets are available at a £1 a ticket, please see Steve McGinty or bar staff. There will be a quiz on Easter Sunday evening hosted by a professional quiz master. Entertainment is booked for Captains' weekend.

2025 Dinner Dance proposed as Lincoln Hotel with the same band as this year.

**Action** – Captain and Chair to discuss with H & S.

## **Any Other Business**

**AGM Review** – No further action required.

**Equality and Diversity Policy** – The GM stated that he is in the process of adopting the England Golf E&D standard policy and will pass to the Chair for signature in the near future.

**Club Logo Copyright** – The GM stated that he had been informed that a local company is embroidering garments for members of the club. This breaches copyright, all members are to be made aware that the Pro Shop is only option for members to use if they want to add the club logo to items of clothing.

**Action** – GM to ensure all members are aware of this policy.

**Car Parking** – Following a trial, it was agreed that apart from the Chairman, Captain & Ladies Captain spaces, the remaining designated car parking spaces are available to any committee members. Signage will be changed in due course but this is not deemed a priority at this moment in time due to the changes at the club.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 5.25pm.

## **Date of Next meeting**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm

Per AS v 28.03.24