

**BLANKNEY GOLF CLUB**  
**MINUTES of the COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 4pm in the Clubhouse.**

**Present:**

**Chairman** – Lynda Ramskar, **Club Captain** – Simon Smith, **Ladies Captain** – Sue Battle, **General Manager** – Alec Bradley, **Course Manager** - Vacant, **Fixtures Sec** – ~~Kev O'Rourke~~, **Secretary** - Anne Smith, **Treasurer** – Richard Tasker, **Vice-Captain** – Kev Jackson, **House & Social** – Gordon Mould, **Comps Sec** – Dave Marriott, **Handicap Sec** – ~~John Dempster~~, **Junior Organiser**—~~Chris Wood~~, **Senior's Captain** – ~~Graham Fletcher~~, **Past Captain** - Nigel Saunders, **Welfare Officer**—~~Simon Tindall~~. **Blankney Estates** – Lizzie Taylor, **Senior's Vice Captain** – Chris Lawton

**Apologies:** Chris Wood, John Dempster, Kev O'Rourke, Graham Fletcher, Simon Tindall.

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and, new member Gordon Mould who has been co-opted on to the committee as House & Social representative.

**Blankney Estates – Planning for the Future**

BE stated that the transition is progressing well, the Due Diligence process is almost complete with asset valuation being the largest outstanding item. Membership renewals show a positive increase with both new and returning members.

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were agreed and approved.

Proposed by: Treasurer and seconded by: Vice Captain

**Matters arising from the last meeting:**

Qualifying criteria for competitions - The committee decided that all three sections would become uniform with 5 qualifying competitions in the previous 12 months to qualify for major/board competitions.

**Action** - Competitions Secretary (CS) to generate article for bulletin.

Course Marshall signs – Complete, golf course pre-game signage/golf buggy course Marshall sign ordered through Tacit golf.

Captains Weekend allocation of funds – Following discussion between Captains, the Seniors Captain requested his allowance to be increased to £500. The committee discussed the matter and requested that the Seniors Captain provide an estimate of costs for their Captain's day.

**Action** – Senior's Captain

Overflow Car Park – The General Manager (GM) approached BE Estates Manager Jason Robb to investigate alternative surface solutions, costings would indicate that this is currently unachievable. Jason will investigate other options, but this has been parked until further notice.

Club logo copyright – Complete. The use of the official Blankney GC club badge/logo has been communicated to the membership with official guidelines of who owns the rights.

Dinner Dance bookings – Hotel and band have been pre-booked for 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 25, although no deposits have been paid.

Sign for competitions – Start-sheet for each competition will be available on the first tee as a temporary measure until the main info board is produced.

Article for A & B team players – Complete.

Mixed matches follow-up – Awaiting feedback from Fixtures Secretary

**Action** – Fixtures Secretary

Apps to be used for General Play and Competitions – Complete.

Staffing for functions – Complete, F & B staff numbers to align better with larger functions, this is with reference to the ladies' social event where staff numbers could have been more suitable. F & B staff and GM to communicate regularly to work 'smarter' with quantity of staff on duty.

Junior Organiser added to safeguarding policy – Junior Organiser to update his DBS training then the 'Respect in Golf and EDI' club policy requirements will be complete.

**Action** – Junior Organiser to update.

Soil on tee boxes - Complete

## **Correspondence**

Nil

## Treasurer's Report

Expenditure since last meeting:

			Sam Hamilton - Sleaford Fabric shop - divot bag	
07.04.24	dc	14	material	60.00
12.04.24	bacs	15	Transfer money to new BGC Ltd	500.00
13.05.24	dc	16	Amazon - ink cartridges	27.19
			Carol Gilbert Photographer - B & W photo of Nige	
15.04.24	bacs	17	Saunders	5.25
15.04.24	bacs	18	R Tasker - copy paper from Tesco's	4.75
15.04.24	bacs	19	Mrs T McCarthy Flowers for Charity Day	27.00
			Mrs Val White - Charity Day donation (banked at pro	
15.04.24	bacs	20	Shop)	69.00
02.05.24	bacs	21	Lincolnshire Golf - Henry Lunn entry	133.00

Income:

08.04.24	5	Cash Dep Meg PO - Easter Quiz	226.60
16.04.24	6	Ladies Section income from BE (various)	228.00
		Ladies Eclectic income from bank acct	
16.04.24	7	closure	9.00
		Ladies Eclectic entries (cash banked at Meg	
18.04.24	8	PO)	39.00
23.04.24	9	Seniors Levy from BE	34.10
		Charity money collected at Ladies Capt.	
26.04.24	10	Drive In	42.00
30.04.24	11	Stu Blythman Levy from BE direct	25.65

Bank Balances @ 02.05.24.

Current account £ 2018.86. Deposit account = £9856.02 (includes Ladies Balance £2774.07).

N.B. We are currently awaiting £417.20, outstanding Levy money from Blankney Estates, due for payment this week.

Still awaiting a copy of the final accounts from the Ladies section, following closure of the Ladies Bank accounts.

There are currently 219 members of the 200 Club which is only three less than last year. Please encourage members who haven't signed up to do so through the Club Secretary (Diane).

## Competitions Secretary's Report

Highlights, lowlights, issues, discussions .....

High - The first seniors qualifier saw 57 entries reduced to 47 by the forecast and further reduced to 42 submitted cards by the freezing hail, rain and strong wind (well done to all 42!!)

High - new members, Patrick and Val Fleming (ex-Sleaford) came second in the Crane Salver  
Discuss the erection of a sign, near the first tee, to affix notices about the days play (most courses I visit have such a sign)

**Note-** See Matters arising - Course Marshall Sign.

Discuss – The Wilson Cup had terrible weather, many said it should have been cancelled (the ladies was but they tee off a lot later so more time to make the call), 71 booked but on 59 signed in and paid. Should we be making a call on Saturday evening?

**Note** – The committee decided that it is unreasonable to decide the night before and if the course is open the competition should go ahead.

### **Competitions to be held in June**

The Seniors Open planned for 18<sup>th</sup> June, The Watson Trophy, currently has 42 visitors entered.

This statement was made at the last committee meeting “The calendar has a club scramble on 5<sup>th</sup> May then the King Charles Waltz on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Two team comps on consecutive days wasn’t considered appropriate and hence the Club Scramble has been replaced by a sign-up stableford for gents.” – However, the calendar was not updated, and the times were not blocked out, so we ended up doing a semi-roll up instead. Can we please ask that the GM acts on the content of these reports when changes have been highlighted.

**Note** – The GM acknowledged a communication breakdown and has dealt with the matter.

We have the Club Invitation Day – ladies and gents (ladies inviting ladies, gents inviting gents). We need to discuss and agree the format for this day (4BBB, food after)

**Note** – The format will be 4BBB.

**Action** – GM to scope food options and costs.

### **Fixtures Report**

Fixtures wise, Ladies have cancelled the May Shambles but have rescheduled the Wilson Cup for 12<sup>th</sup> May. The Branston Cup has been moved to 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Friendly matches are starting to come thick and fast, please ensure the organisers are timely in organising the teams, and meals where appropriate. A mixed match has been arranged vs Newark on May 10, at home, Dave Coucill is the organiser.

I’m sure there maybe some discussion about the poor response to some Opens. Possibly we need to compare what other clubs are offering regards price and food. Potentially we can reschedule some Opens to later in the year if the will is there. Maybe the most significant factor is how we appeal to visitors, which is the main focus for Opens I feel.

### **Handicaps Report**

Nothing to report.

### **Course Manager’s Report**

Course Report for Committee meeting

Cutting heights for the course:

Greens – 4mm  
Collars – 12mm

Tees – 12mm

Surrounds – 1.5inches

Rough - 3 inches

Fairways – 16mm, looking to adjust to 14mm week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May

Priority at the moment is getting the irrigation up and running. Another priority is to fix the hydraulic leaks on the Pro Gator and the Rough Mower. Seeding machine is in on May 21<sup>st</sup> for high stress areas, including Tees and Walk off areas.

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

A very active month with staff leavers, with both John and Callum Hart leaving the business. I would personally like to thank both and in particular John, who after 17 years helped scale up the course condition to an impressive standard. We move forward quickly with an advert for another greenkeeper to join the team. During this interim period Mark Caswell has stepped up to lead the team, in this time Mark has actioned the agreed expansion of the shrunken greens, 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The new larger outer lined edges (7mm cut length) will continue for 2 weeks with the greens being slowly graded in at 4mm as per greens currently. This will then be reduced to 3.5mm after treatments this month, equating to increased pace across the park. (Weather Dependent).

Safe Golf Club requirements have been renewed for 2024.

Eagle golf- chased for delivery of Course rating board.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Pre-Course meeting in readiness for club's objectives for rating visit for May 20<sup>th</sup>

May 14<sup>th</sup> Greens rating team visit. (Mike Bell).

2<sup>nd</sup> Pond (Water Hazard) levels have now been resolved via John Hart. Should take 2 weeks to slowly refill.

Club Competitions withdrawals communications sent out (Wilson Cup) issues with many not turning up, letting playing partners down, rain means we stay open as we are aware.

26<sup>th</sup> May Mixed Open will keep an eye on entries, looking slightly better this week.

James Flower (Glenmuir rep) met with me and the Senior Organizer John Wood to discuss official Senior club colour garment options \*Ascot Blue. Outcome agreed as an order option for the section.

Prices for the garments will be passed onto John Wood to share with seniors section.

### **Captain's Report**

The season is well and truly underway, there is a club friendly every week this month, starting with Woodhall Spa at home tomorrow afternoon. The A team play their 3<sup>rd</sup> fixture and the B team their first this Saturday, the first round of the Bramley and Elsham Trophies also take place this month. There will be a Captain's Charity Quiz on the evening of 7 Jun 2024, further details to follow very soon.

Feedback from members:

Course is looking really good – although a few greens i.e. 8, 14 & 15 seem to be marked, when will the previously stated verticut and top dressing go ahead.

**Note** - See Course Managers report.

11<sup>th</sup> fairway – the semi rough cut either side of the track that crosses the fairway seems unfair, you hit a straight drive and you're in the semi rough, or you finish on the road and have to take a drop in the semi rough. Is there any reason why this is the case, can these areas be cut to fairway length?

**Action** – GM to request greenstaff to cut to fairway length.

### **Ladies' Section**

The Ladies Captain informed the committee that the Ladies are holding a plant, jam and pickle sale on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, any donations would be appreciated. Their friendly match against Thonock had to be cancelled unfortunately and the first league match resulted in a defeat to Woodhall Spa.

### **Seniors' Section**

The Seniors recently played Belton Park which resulted in a defeat.

### **Juniors' Section**

Nothing to report.

### **House & Social**

The new House & Social representative sought clarification of many points with the committee. He will meet with the Treasurer to discuss the finances, will form a sub-committee and is planning events for the coming year, more detail to follow at next meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

Competition Secretary queried who would be looking after the Michael Parker Cross-Country competition in August. GM confirmed that this would be organised by the Pro-shop.

The Ladies Captain informed the committee that the Birdie Tree has gone missing from the Ladies locker room.

**Action** – GM to investigate.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 5.40pm.

### **Date of Next meeting**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm.

Per AS v 21.05.24