

## Minutes of the Seniors' Committee.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

1. Present : Tom Fletcher;Richard Fernley;Ken Parry Brown; John Morley; Paul Smith
2. Apologies: Paul Kent; Stephen Ward;Andrew Jennings.
3. Absent : Richard Day.
4. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.
5. There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.
6. Captain's Report

*Since the last meeting on Thursday 23rd September the Seniors section has begun introducing stricter competition rules as approved by the Seniors Committee, starting with the Blyth Trophy, which required three Qualifiers and continuing with the Memorial Trophy, which required five Qualifiers. Winter Knockouts now require three Qualifiers.*

*Due to the complexity of identifying players who satisfy the correct criteria, and to give all Seniors an opportunity to play in the competition, no attempt is made to bar players who do not have sufficient Competition Qualifiers but do have sufficient General Play Cards submitted. In this case, those who pay to enter the Competition are allowed to compete for the cash prizes.*

*The Seniors held four Trophy competitions, including the Enticknap Trophy, 1<sup>st</sup> October (winners Gordon Bing, Robin Gwillim-Douce and Richard Rhodes) and the new Blyth Trophy, 8<sup>th</sup> October for the Seniors first Division players. The Blyth Trophy was won by Martin Pollitt, who had played in the required number of Qualifier, while the top cash prize was won by Paul Raynes, who had not played in sufficient Qualifiers to win the Trophy.*

*The Gilson Wright Salver on 26<sup>th</sup> October was won by Mike Hayes and the Holton Shield on 12<sup>th</sup> November was won by Paul Sherwood and Andrew Frances.*

*The Inter-club Seniors matches were completed with a home match win against Rookery on 27<sup>th</sup> October. This match replaced a fixture earlier in the year that was cancelled due to COVID restrictions.*

*The Seniors 2020/2021 Winter League matches started on 17 November, with a home match win against Diss. Future matches include Bungay (away on 2<sup>nd</sup> December), Southwold (home on 8<sup>th</sup> December) and Caldecott Hall (home on 19<sup>th</sup> January).*

*There has been continued introduction of new members into the Seniors section, with the Roll-up App continuing to help new and established members find playing partners.*

*The final Seniors Qualifier of the year off white tees took place on 16 November. Winter qualifiers will be played off yellow tees. The exceptions are the Medal of Medals and Stableford of Stableford competitions, which will remain off white tees. Well done as always to the Greenkeepers for continuing to maintain the course and prepare for the winter: we get to show our appreciation at the Greenkeeper's cup on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. A special thank you to Ben Townsend and Mrs Hunt for contributing to the Seniors Captain's expenses. This will go a long way to covering*

*the Seniors Captain's and others day to day and match expenses. I understand this will be provided to future Seniors Captains.*

*The Seniors Captains' Away Day (2020 and 2021 Captains) took place at Haverhill Golf Course on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. There was a very good turnout for an enjoyable round at a course where we do not play in the inter-club matches.*

*Winter block bookings start on 1 December, with Tuesdays becoming 0800-0930 and Fridays 0900-1030. The Seniors section continues to work with Richard and Alistair and will continue to review timings and take up of tee times during the winter period. The Seniors AGM has been called for 3<sup>rd</sup> December.*

*The Seniors committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November is to consider Seniors' policy for 2022 in preparation for informing the AGM. Topics for discussion, which are provided by Paul Kent, include: -*

*1) 2021 has been a year of transition: where do we go from here with IG, WHS & COVID planning?*

*2) A review of Qualifiers required for Trophy competitions, to be agreed by the Seniors committee. The recommendation from Paul and myself is to keep the current arrangement and review again in 3 months. However, we feel that the committee should review of the maximum Playing Handicap (i.e. 95% of Course Handicap) for board trophy competitions. Our recommendation is for the limit to be reduced from 28 to 24.*

*3) Uniformity for Seniors match attire now we will have sponsored shirts provided and club jumpers available on loan*

*4) Plans for supporting roles in the Seniors management team*

*5) End of spreadsheets and new method for taking competition fees, which is to collect on the day of the competition, after play.*

*Issues related to Qualifiers would normally consider any further recommendations from the Handicap Committee, which was held on 17 November. In fact, the committee's views have softened somewhat since their last meeting and stated they happy to see competition conditions remaining as is for the time being.*

*Other items: -*

*Beware that we have at least one member of the Seniors Section recently reporting that they have been tested positive for COVID.*

*R&A have announced that new regulations come into force in 2022 which will state that handicap golfers will not be allowed to accept cash prizes. Vouchers and gift cards are acceptable therefore the Seniors Section will continue to pay any prize money on to the club card.*

*John Morley has completed the inter-club match fixture list for 2022. John has been able to remove most of the weeks when two matches were played, however he was not able to distribute home and away matches more evenly. This will be organised next year when preparing for 2023 fixtures. John is also in the process of preparing a questionnaire for squad members to gauge their views on numbers of matches and the clubs played.*

*The Seniors Christmas Dinner will be on 17<sup>th</sup> December. It looks like there will be a very good turn out from the numbers that have signed up so far. There will be a prize*

*giving to cover both 2020 and 2021 competitions. Prizes will be inscribed glassware prepared by Lesley King.*

*Unfortunately, Paul Kent has been unwell and not able to attend meetings, although he is giving guidance on decision making. Paul takes over as Seniors Captain on 3 December.*

Agreed amendments to current competition rules: -

- I. Trophies/competitions cannot be won by anyone not having completed the required number of 'competition playing Qualifiers' prior to entry. They will not be required to pay an entry fee as they cannot win a financial reward or trophy. Note that General Play Qualifiers do not count as playing Qualifiers.

Summary of current competition rules:

- 5 playing Qualifiers required for Board Trophies and Blyth Trophy
- 3 playing Qualifiers required to win all other Trophy, Team and Qualifier Competitions unless stated otherwise
- 3 general play scores required to win 'roll-up' competitions
- Competition rules to be reviewed by the Seniors Committee on a quarterly basis

- II. The 28 maximum handicap is to be retained but reviewed after three months.
- III. It was agreed that light blue (suggested by the Club Committee) would be the colour for the "sponsored" shirts for Seniors in line with the rest of the club.
- IV. RF proposed that the numbers in the Seniors divisions  
Division 1 raise to 18 (currently 17)  
Division 2 19 - 24 (currently 18 - 22)  
Division 3 25 upwards (currently 23 upwards).
- V. It was proposed to change the Memorial back to a Medal competition as it was originally instituted.

#### 7. Election of Committee members

TF expressed his gratitude for all the assistance he had been given during his Captaincy and proposed that the new captain be similarly supported by a sharing of roles/assistance. John Morley is taking over the role of Secretary at the AGM as PKS stands down.

JM has prepared a questionnaire on the matter of number of fixtures etc to be presented to Seniors Squad members face to face next year.

8. In the absence of RD there was no Treasurer's report.
9. Matters of Captain's handover and division of responsibilities to be confirmed on the accession of the new captain. This will include management of ig, competitions and captaining of interclub matches.

10. JM confirmed that fixtures for next year were mostly in place, but he had yet to hear from Southwold (ACTION: PKS agreed to follow this up).
11. The AGM agenda was agreed subject to confirmation from PK, as Captain elect.

There being no AOB the meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.