

Halesworth Golf General Committee Meeting, Wednesday 20th October 2021

Minutes of the Meeting:

In Attendance

Ben Townsend – Club Manager (BT)
Richard Davies – Club Professional (RD)
Rob Sherrington – Club Captain & Competition Secretary (RS)
Caroline Emeny – Ladies' Captain
John Clatworthy – Past Captain (JC)
Tom Fletcher – Seniors' Captain (TF)
Paul Kent – Seniors' Vice-Captain (PK)
Robert Steven – Handicap Secretary (RSt)
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer (KPB)
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

Apologies: Lynda Baldry

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes were agreed to be an accurate summary of the meeting.

Matters Arising: The question of access to the defibrillator, mentioned at the last meeting by RS, was briefly discussed. BT explained that a defibrillator suitable for outside storage (eg in the golf range) was expensive in the order of £1,500. He felt that there was always someone on duty whenever the golf course was open giving access to the present defibrillator which is kept on a shelf behind the bar in the clubhouse. There is a sign next to the shop indicating where it is kept and the machine itself is intended to be used by anyone able to follow the simple operating instructions so that in an emergency a member of staff being present was not a necessity.

Club Update : BT explained that in order to make the Valley Course more playable in wet weather a 2m square mat is to be placed on each tee for use during winter months. The mats are designed to accept tees and only take up a small area of the existing tees leaving the grass area playable when conditions are suitable. The mats would have a wooden border and would help to keep the tees tidy during the winter months as well as making them more playable for members and visitors.

The New Year's Eve Party at the Club has already been advertised and a courtesy bus to Halesworth has been organised as before and included in the admission price. This Friday (23rd) there is a Pro- Am tournament with a field of 80+ and BT went on to explain that the management is to sponsor two of the junior football teams in the town. KPB raised the issue of the 16th tee on the Blyth Course and was told that it was something that would be considered, along with other improvements to the course, in line with the ongoing schedule of work for the two courses.

Lady Captain's Report : With incredible weather in the last few weeks, golf has carried on unabated with a lot of competitions and opens being played by our ladies. Our own course is recovering well from the intensely dry summer we've had and we must thank the greenkeeping staff for all their hard work, allowing us to enjoy our golf. Our thanks go to all of them and our fantastic pro shop staff. My personal thanks to Rob Sherrington for the manic but excellent Race Night, from which my chosen charity, Bowel Cancer UK, will benefit by £250. It was an excellent night with money changing hands at a rate of knots! Thank you Rob and your lovely wife for all your hard work at this event.

Competition Winners since the last report:

We played our second and last mixed friendly match at Gorleston on 125 October under beautiful conditions. Their course is still running well. We had 8 pairs play, most of them in very tight matches, but suffered an overall defeat 4/2 to the home team. We look forward to getting back to our normal mixed schedule in 2022 with the first match at home v Diss on Saturday 26 March.

September Medal:

Silver Division 1st Rita Fossey nett 69, 2nd Sally McCoy nett 68, 3rd Clare Woods nett 70

Bronze Division: 1st Jean Berry nett 64, 2nd Linda Freeman nett 73, 3rd Jackie Dutton nett 75

Scott Salver re best gross score in above Thursday medal : Winner Judith Bedwell gross 80, runner up Rachael Goldsmith gross 81.

Budd Vase for best nett score in the above medal: Winner Jean Berry nett 64, runner up Rita Fossey nett 69. Some fantastic scores in the above competition with a few handicap cuts!

September Stableford:

Silver Division 1st Rita Fossey OCB 39 points, 2nd Ali Wallace 39 points, 3rd Barbara Dennis 37 points

Bronze Division: 1st Mary Pickering 43 points, 2nd Sue Millard 36 points, 3rd Angela Middleton 36 points

The Granny Trophy played in the above Thursday stableford was won by Barbara Dennis, runner up Angela Middleton.

Excellent scores once again!

October Medal:

Silver Division 1st Rita Fossey nett 67, 2nd Barbara Dennis nett 73, 3rd Clare Woods nett 74

Bronze Division: 1st Jackie Dutton nett 76, 2nd Mary Wildish nett 83, 3rd Mart Pickering nett 92

Harvest Medal re best gross score in above Thursday medal : Winner Rita Fossey, runner up Barbara Dennis

The **Pearce Trophy** was played in September with Cathy Chandler, Pete Bennett and Andrew Millard winning the Trophy. Two entrants were allowed to play in the competition, in the knowledge that they could not win it as they had not played any qualifiers, as part of our being inclusive to all. The team of Tracy Reeve, Ken Parry-Brown and Tony Shaw actually came in with the highest score but are unable to win the Trophy as per the aforementioned rules. The ladies section would like to thank Ken and Tony for their goodwill in this.

The **Addison Mixed Foursomes** played in September was won by Brian & Barbara Dennis, runners up Lesley & David King.

Our ladies have played 3 of their winter league matches at the time of writing, with 1 win and 2 losses with 2 to play. This is the final of a delayed 2 year competition for the Winter League Trophy played with Bungay, Rookery Park, Southwold, Gorleston and Diss.

Our ladies have continued to do well in some of the later opens across the county. Lynda Baldry has played in many opens this year and has reaped several prizes with her various team members across the breadth and depth of those competitions, too many for me to name individually.

Rachael and Barbara have represented County in a few of the Ladies Seniors matches against other counties.

We are finalising preparations for our first Lady Captains Charity Open on Thursday 28th October, the Spooktacular! It's fully subscribed with 72 ladies taking part. It will be a lot of fun, but I couldn't do it without the help of the lady members, so my thanks to them all in advance. Let's hope the weather stays dry!

Captain's Report: The course looks in terrific condition, with the rough now cut back it really shows how the trees are beginning to establish themselves so well all round the course. Work on the greens continues but as always, they run well if not sometimes a little slow - well done to Mark and his team.

It is great to see new members continue to join the club and integrate themselves into all the golf clubs' different activities. It is also nice to see how welcoming our members are to both visitors and new members alike.

A Race Night took place on Friday October 8th. It was great to see a large number of new people attend this event some new members other members who had not been to one before. It is fair to say that the atmosphere was 'electric' everyone entered the spirit of the event and certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to those committee members that were able to attend specially Ken who operated the tote with real efficiency coupled with true style.

The event raised a further £750 this will be split up as follows: - £250 to Bowel Cancer Research as the Lady captain was in attendance and bidding well!! And £500 to my three charities making a running total of £6039 from the Gents Captains Charity to support the Pear Tree Centre, Volunteer Centre and Halesworth Hoppa.

Gents' matches have - the most recent results were: -

Wednesday August 25th v The Police Home WON 3 - 2

Tuesday September 14th v Eaton Away LOST 2 - 3

Saturday September 25th v Stowmarket Home WON 4 ½ - 3 ½

I continue to talk to as many visitors as possible especially when they are indulging in our superb dining facilities! along with new members as well as play golf with as many different members as possible to try to get to know them all.

Seniors' Captain Report: Since the last meeting on Wednesday 15th September the Seniors section has begun introducing stricter competition rules for player's handicaps, starting with the Blyth Trophy, which required three Qualifiers and continuing with the forthcoming Memorial Trophy, which requires five Qualifiers. Winter Knockouts require three Qualifiers. This is discussed in more detail below.

Other items to mention are the continued introduction of new members into the Seniors section and completion of the Inter-club planned Seniors matches (with a win at Felixstowe) apart from the addition of a home match against Rookery on 27th October, which replaces a fixture earlier in the year that was cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

We have continued to work with Richard and Alastair on management of tee times on Tuesdays and Fridays. The block booking periods for the winter months have been provided. The only change to Tuesdays is that the earliest bookings may be affected by daylight hours: the greenkeepers require at least 15 minutes ahead of the field. On Fridays the block booking is 0900-1030 to allow members to play ahead of the Seniors. We have agreed with Richard to monitor numbers, with the earlier time brought forward if tee times are not taken up. Seniors do have the option of playing outside of the block booking, however we urge Seniors to respect the club's attempt to cater for all members.

The Ladies and Seniors Pearce Trophy took place on 24th September. Its success was wholly due to Caroline's management of the event. It was remarkable how close the results were for many of the teams, indicating how well the teams were chosen to provide a fair balance of handicaps.

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

As mentioned above, the Seniors section is implementing new rules for competitions, which are as recommended by the Handicap Committee. The current plan was approved by the Seniors Committee on 23rd September and development of the plan will be reviewed by the Seniors Committee ahead of the Seniors AGM on 4 December, when the plan for 2022 will be presented.

The recommendations of the Handicap Committee were to add a level of fairness to competitions that appeared to be missing while the World Handicap System is becoming established. The Handicap Committee recommended a minimum of ten Qualifiers ultimately for competitions, particularly board competitions. The Seniors section is adding this incrementally because it is recognised that some Seniors do not play in a many Qualifiers or are new to the game.

Qualifiers are taken to be Medals and Stableford competitions identified as such in competition settings and include automatic pre-registration so that scores are used in the WHS determination of handicap.

A problem we have with England Golf is that General Play Cards (GPC) are also identified as Qualifiers in IG. It was felt by the Handicap Committee that these did not provide the level of scrutiny provided by Qualifier competitions.

IG will accept GPC and Qualifier Competitions, so that the Competition must have an additional rule identifying that the Trophy can only be won by those having played in a sufficient number of Competition 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 have do not have sufficient Competition Qualifiers but do have sufficient GPCs. In this case, those who pay to enter the Competition are allowed to compete for the cash prizes. Those who chose not to pay are not included in the finalisation of results.

The Blyth Trophy was the first competition where the new rules were applied. As it took place soon after the Seniors Committee meeting the Qualifier limit was set at 3. Members have been given more notice of the requirement for five Qualifiers for the Memorial Trophy. Competitors in knockout competitions are required to have played in three Qualifiers. Increasing the Competition criterial to 8 Qualifiers is being considered for the first quarter of 2022, increasing to ten Qualifiers for the rest of the year.

Well done as always to the Greenkeepers for continuing to maintain and improve the course: we get to show our appreciation at the Greenkeeper's cup on Friday 26th 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.

Following the Captains' Reports BT wished to thank RS for running the very successful recent Race Night with more than 80 people in attendance. £750 was raised for the Captains' Charities from the takings for the evening.

CE gave BT the photo of the winning Weston team to be framed and displayed. She also asked if the 'halfway house' could be cleared out prior to the Ladies' Open competition next week. This was agreed to and the reminder about the outstanding money box was noted.

TF thanked CE and PK for their help with the Pearce Trophy and explained that he had received a menu and a price for the Seniors' Christmas Meal .

Competition Secretary's Since the last meeting **LOTS of different competitions have been completed.**

Sunday 19th September **Sherwood Bogey – Competition against the course – 69 Entrants**
Winner Gavin Lugo 5 Up, 2nd Billy Thurston 5 Up, 3rd Jason Cook 4 Up

Sunday 26th September **September Stableford – 78 Entrants**
Winner Darren Knights 46 Pts 2nd William Pye 42 Pts 3rd Darron Ridgeon 41 Pts

Sunday 3rd October **October Medal – 72 Entrants**
Winner Gary Etchels Net 64, 2nd Sam Borrett Net 66, 3rd Chris Daunt Net 68

Sunday 10th October **Field Salver – 78 Entrants**
Winner Simon Hunter 41 Pts 2nd Ed Bowles 40 Pts 3rd Chris Daunt 40 Pts

Sunday 17th October **Ernie Challenge Trophy – 3 Club Team Challenge – 75 Entrants**
Winners Brett Lockwood, Chris Daunt & Gavin Lugo 88 Pts
2nd Stephen Brown, Arron Fairweather & Liam O' Donovan 86 Pts
3rd Brad Reynolds, Stuart King & Daniel Milne 82 Pts

The **Ashurst Cup** (Gents Summer Singles) All Matches have been completed on time!!

Winner Wayne Jacques
Runner Up Andrew Browne

The **Judd Jennings** (Gents Summer Doubles) Has now been completed.

Winners Lee Adams & Billy Thurston
Runners Up Kevin Bates & Chris Peach

- **Winter Singles 27 Players and Foursomes 46 Players** - draws have been made

Player of the Year: - This runs until October 31st, **(1 Competition LEFT!!) very CLOSE at the top!!**

52 Pts Tom Feveyear

51 Pts Darron Ridgeon

48 Pts Sam Borrett & Gavin Lugo

Gents Summer Eclectic – This was VERY CLOSE at the top

Winner Net 50 Sam Borrett

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Sunday 24th October Gents Monthly Stableford
- Sunday 31st October Additional Greensomes
- Sunday 7th November Ian Ransby Trophy
- Sunday 14th November Handley Cup
- Sunday 21st November Gents Monthly Medal
- Sunday 28th November Gents Monthly Stableford

Finally – I am in the STILL IN the process of finalising a document detailing the **Men's Competition Rules and Rules for Playing Golf for all Gents / Mixed competitions at Halesworth Golf Club**. This will be sent out in draft form before the next meeting so committee members can review before being adopted.

A date of 11th November has been set for the Handley Cup and players will be asked to observe the minutes silence at 11.00 on that day in respect for those who gave their lives in WW1.

The Ian Ransby Trophy, usually held on Good Friday, has been re-scheduled for 7th November.

CE asked whether there would be a Turkey Trot this year and was told by RS that this yet had to be organised but would take place .

Treasurer's Report.: The total of the balances of the Club are £11,589.38

This may be a record high, but this has nothing to do with sound investment or business management, but a lot to do with our Captain's efforts raising money for his charities.

1. Handicap Secretary's Report: Since 15-09-21, Initial Handicaps issued to:

Name	Handicap Index
Christopher Busby	23.0
Nigel Busby	19.5

2.

1. General Play Scores

1. A total of 247 General Play scores were entered by Halesworth members through IG during September 2021, down from 283 the previous month. A further 53 were entered directly onto the WHS platform using the MyEG app, down slightly from 59 in August.
2. Thanks again to Paul Kent and Rob Sherington for taking care of handicap matters for two weeks in October.

2. Annual Review Guidance

1. England Golf has issued its guidance for handicap Annual Reviews which they propose should be mainly based on their Handicap Review Report on the WHS platform. It is said to be designed to identify those players whose Handicap Index may require review and further consideration by the Committee.
 1. Statistical equations are used to calculate the expected scoring pattern of players and compare their actual scores against the expected scores. The analysis of scores is intended to guide Handicap Committees on which players' handicaps should be reviewed and potentially adjusted. It is recommended that scores over a 12-month period are studied.
2. England Golf instructs that one should only 'report' on players flagged by the report. It is categorically stated that committees should not consider all members handicaps for adjustment.
 1. The Halesworth Gents Handicap Committee has typically taken a broader view when undertaking reviews, for example by using direct observation/knowledge of players. However, England Golf is recommending a much narrower perspective as defined by their report.
3. There are a couple of other reports which are intended to contribute to the Review process. These include a report comparing players results in Competitions vs General Play submissions which might reveal an attempt to manipulate the system.
4. The Gents Handicap Committee will aim to do our Annual Review during the next month.

3. Handicap Secretary Report?

In future, is it necessary for the Handicap 'Team' to produce a report for the committee every month? There has been a lot to say about handicapping during the last few years but hopefully there will be less new information and fewer issues to report on, so a routine report every month may not be justified.

The Committee discussed the necessity of a report from the Handicap Secretary for each meeting and agreed that this should not be a requirement but be left open for a report to be included whenever it was thought to be necessary.

Matters for Discussion: The AGM and Presentation Evening is set for Friday, 3rd December with a 7.00pm start for the AGM in the Wenhaston Room to be followed by a Presentation Evening in the bar area. It was agreed that a buffet would be served as usual at approximately 8.30 pm, about halfway through the presentation.

The Committee gave their nominations for Committee Officers for 2022 and BT agreed to publish this on the various platforms for the members allowing them, as is usual, to nominate alternative suggestions if they wish to do so. The usual agenda was agreed to be followed. Further discussion about the details of the evening will take place as a matter of priority at the next Committee Meeting.

RS requested that any trophy winners not known to him should be listed asap.

Health and Safety: The question of play during foggy conditions was raised for discussion. The ability to see the 11th green from the clubhouse was agreed not in itself to be a sufficient requirement for play to take place. Ultimately it must be up to the individual player to decide whether or not it is safe to play. There is a notice to this effect on the back of the scorecard and players need to make note of this. The only exception would be when a very large competition field is due to play (eg Sunday mornings) when a decision would be made as to whether the course is open or not and must then be adhered to. Members and visitors need to be aware of their responsibilities in relation to their own safety and that of others.

AOB: RS requested that the management might consider the possibility of a Greens Committee being set up. His reason for this is that he was often asked by members about various aspects of the work being done on the course and often was unable to answer their questions. He would like to have a regular meeting with Mark accompanied by two other members, not necessarily on the Committee, to discuss future work on the upkeep of the course. BT was not in favour of calling it a Greens Committee and was concerned that Mark should not be "told what to do" as he was the professional in charge with the greatest degree of understanding as to what needed to be done. Having received assurances from RS that this would not be the case he was not against the idea and would talk to Mark with a view to setting such a regular informal meeting up in the future. PK agreed that this would be a good idea and KPB

requested a notice to go out when major works were about to happen.

Mrs. Hunt has kindly agreed to sponsor shirts for those members representing the Club in official matches. A request from PK that these should be quality shirts and not made of cotton was noted and DW was asked to write a short letter of thanks to Mrs. Hunt for her generous offer.

PK went on to offer, together with a number of volunteers, help to Mark in putting down sheeting on the greens overnight in an attempt to 'sweat out' the crane fly larvae which damage the greens when the rooks try to dig them up as for food. BT explained that Mark had found a new chemical spray that was permitted to be used but its effectiveness was still unclear and required a degree of paperwork before being allowed to be used. He thanked PK for his offer of help and would consult Mark about it. PK's second question was concerned with decision making at Committee Meetings. RS assured him that all significant decisions which required a vote to take place would be settled on a simple vote with no member of the Committee being able to override the decision of the majority with the Committee always making a decision with the interests of the members at heart.

A suggestion by former Captain JC regarding home/away venues for County Competitions was well received by the Committee. His suggestion was that for Hambro and Tolly competitions the club drawn at home for one should play away in the other competition. This would even up the home advantage that some clubs seem to have in these competitions and could equally be applied to Parks and Beaumont. RS offered to write to Charlie Wilderspin at Suffolk Golf with this proposal. The only problem with what seems to be a very good idea is that what might happen in the next round when a club wins one competition but loses the other? Nevertheless worth exploring.

JC must have been on particularly good form because he had noticed that the course plan on the back of the scorecard fails to show the 'new' lake !! Has anyone else noticed that? It will be rectified in the next printing of the scorecard but not for a while yet. Perhaps the lake is something that even visiting players are unlikely to miss, figuratively speaking!

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17th at 7.00pm

Don Wellman