

HALESWORTH GOLF CLUB – GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th June, 2024

Ben Townsend – Manager (BT)
Richard Davies – Club Professional (RD)
Ellie Andrews – Assistant Manager (EA)
Paul Kent – Club Captain (PK)
Paul Butcher – Club Vice-Captain (PB)
Gary Slaymaker – Past Club Captain (GS)
Sara Higgins – Past Ladies' Captain & Competition Secretary (SH)
Karen Forster Ladies' Secretary (KF)
John Meggison – Seniors' Captain (JM)
Dave Tower – Seniors' Vice-Captain (DT)
Rob Sherington – Competition & Handicap Secretary (RS)
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer Secretary (KPB)
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

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Present: BT, PK, PB, GS, SH, KF, JM, RS, KPB, DW

Apologies: DT, RD, EA

Minutes of the Last Meeting. Accepted as a true record

Matters Arising: KF mentioned that the Ladies section have produced a short introductory video for new members. BT reported that the damaged drain cover on the path going down to 11th hole has now been repaired. This had been reported by KPB at the last meeting.

Club Update: In BT's report the 'Cocktails and Tapas Night' on 13th July and the 'Summer Ball' on 20th July were both mentioned. Upcoming Open Competitions at the Club include a Juniors' Open on 6th July, a Ladies' Open (116 entries so far) on 11th July and a Mixed Open (74 entries so far) on 17th August. The redecoration of the function room is currently taking place and should be completed within the next two weeks.

This would be Ben's last General Club Committee Meeting as he leaves the club on 30th June. Looking back over a long personal involvement with the club, stretching right back to his days as a junior member, he commented on the incredible progress that has been made and wanted to thank the many people that have been involved in the process, including the Committee members, during all of that period. He reminded members that we have amazing owners who will continue to invest in Halesworth Golf and wished to thank everyone for their support during all of the time he has been associated with the club. He hoped that it would be possible to have a Committee v Staff match in July to mark his farewell from the club although he plans to continue his association as a playing member.

PB asked whether there was any news on his successor as club manager but was told that there was nothing to report at present.

Lady Captain's Report: May already, and at last the Sun has appeared!!

I would like to thank the greenkeepers for the fabulous work they have done to keep the course up to a very high standard, the course is looking, and playing very well, considering the amount of rain it has had. The feedback from visitors has been phenomenal, and I'm very proud to praise our greenkeepers. Well, done to you all, and I can't praise you all highly enough. Keep up the fantastic work and enabling us to play such a beautiful course.

We had our combined April Medal on 31st March and on the 4th of April with Clare winning with a net 75, Well done Clare great score!

On Wednesday the 10th We had our first coffee morning for new members at the club, , Cathy Judd and I met with 3 new members, Jennifer Read, Frances Hughman and Angela Morris and we had a

lovely surprise when Karol Pereley attended too, which I thought was very encouraging for our new ladies, as she has recently become an active member herself, playing on Thursdays.. I found the meeting very rewarding and it's great to tell them what lovely ladies section we have We are looking to hopefully going forward to be doing this every quarter, It was lovely to meet them and to answer any questions they may have, in a relaxed environment, they all seem very eager to get going and to join in on the ladies section, once they get there cards in for a H/C, Frances Hughman has a H/C of 16.7. After the meeting I went out with Karol Pereley and Angela Morris, and done 10 holes, I had arranged to meet with Angela and Jennifer on the Saturday to get there first cards in, on the Valley course. Congratulations to Jennifer who has completed her 1st card.

11th we had our combined Stapleford with Lin Smith winning with 36 pts Well done Lin!! I'm sure Sara will follow in more details with comp results in her reports.

18th was the Captain v Vice Captain comp The theme was Alice in Wonderland, followed by the Mad Hatters tea party ,Karen and her husband Keith and I came up the day before to prepare the room for the Mad Hatters tea party, from posters on the walls to miss match cups and saucers, side plates on the tables bowls of sweets, goody bags with all different themes of the tea party, there where all different cut outs of hats teapots, cats, hares, cards, Alice and mad hatters etc hanging from the ceiling it looked amazing. Keith was in the corner pumping up the blow-up dreaded putters, that turned out bigger than I thought. Thank you to Karen and Keith for all their hard work in preparation for the event.

We had 27 entries for the day, and each and every one of them made the effort with their amazing costumes, put it this way I've never seen so many mad hatters, Alices, and Cheshire cats in one day, I felt I was doing double treble vision, and never seen so much nonsense in one day, and looked like we had all been let out of the asylum for the day. The format of the day was everyone was playing of 85% with Stapleford scoring and all scores to count. there was different equipment on T boxes for ladies to use to t-off with, so therefore they were NOT allowed to use any of their clubs apart from what was available on the tees.

Holes 4, 11, and 16, were the ONLY time they could use any club in their bag that they wished, as these are NP, ON or OFF the green, and a chance for anyone to win a prize. But this is where the inflatable sticks came in as they all had to putt out with them.

No one knew who was on the Captains or the Vice Captains team, Karen and I didn't even know!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It was only when they entered the room and had to pick out a goody bag with someone's name on it and was done alternatively by putting that person's name on a list.

We had a lacrosse stick on the first hole, not one of my team Sonia, Karen and myself, made the ditch, in fact Sonia nearly took our heads off, but giggle we all did all the way round, especially when the DREADED inflatable putter came out, trying to putt with it was an absolute Shambles, from the feedback afterwards, ladies where using the other end of it, squeezing it as tight as they could to make it harder, bending them in half, from laying on the floor trying to use it as a snooker que, but it made them all laugh. We had tennis rackets, mallets, badminton rackets, squash rackets, hockey stick, left-handed driver, child's driver, cricket bat and even a dog throw for a ball, where Karen came right round her body and nearly took Sonia and I out and ended up left further back than where she started. I think the conclusion to this is we all failed miserably with the equipment, and at how pathetic we all were trying to use it all, and I think insurance may have been needed for the day, but most of all it was something different and a laugh and laugh we all did, and no one ever wants to see an inflatable putter EVER AGAIN. But it was fun and that was the aim.

Thank you to RS, for the loan of the rackets, and to Sara for her travels and surfing the internet, for the other equipment for the day. Thank you both so much!!!

We proceeded to upstairs for the tee party, everyone took their seats, and the food started to come out, on the tiers, from finger sandwiches to cakes, scones, you name it we had it, and tea was provided too. But we couldn't really have a tea party unless it was someone's Birthday, so it made it even more special to celebrate Sara's 55TH birthday, with a birthday cake and cakes for all the ladies to take home. Thank you so much to Ellie for organizing the food, Sara's birthday cake, and cakes. I

personally thought the food was fantastic and very well presented and thank you to all the bar staff for keeping us full up and looking after us all.

While Karen and I were sorting out the winners of the competition Karen had made up a quiz for the ladies to keep them occupied, in which Jackie D, Rosie, and Sally w won.

NP was won by Karen Cathy J and Clare

1st team prize Rosie Angela, and Sally w

2nd team prize Sue H Sian and Hillary

3rd team prize Sally b Mand w and Maggie

Best overall score of the day was Angela.

Best Dressed was a difficult one, we were torn between 2 teams, so made the decision to award both teams prizes.

1st was Lesley, Sally and Cathy J.

2nd was Sue M, Julie C, and Sussane W

Well, done to all the winners of the day, but most of all well done to everyone taking part, and making the day fun and enjoyable Thank you to you all.

On the 25th We had our Gilly Bogey comp; with 17 entrants I won this one with a +2

On the 1st of May was the Dementia day, there was 57 entrants for this day, which is phenomenal, What a great turn out to support the local dementia Halesworth community carers for all their hard work, 5k had been raised on the day through sponsorships and entrant fees, which will be used to support the carers and families of loved ones with dementia, this is such an awful disease and can happen to anyone of us, after listening to one of the ladies stories of her husband, and how it affected her husband but also her, was heartbreaking, it was short and sweet her story, but enough to make you realize the effect this has on her and others, and TBH I don't know how Sara made her speech after listening to her, after the pair of us hiding and blubbing behind the tv set, but Sara as professional as always managed it, and I take my hat off to her, but most of all the carers and families that have to deal with this every day. So, a special thank you goes to Sara and John Giles in the fantastic organization, of putting this comp together and making it such a successful day, and fun.

The winners of the day were Barbara Dennis Brian Dennis Ged Moreton and Robert Moreton, and this couldn't have been a more fitting team to win as Barbara herself had lost her late Mother to this awful Disease.

Well, done to all the winners and to all of you that took part.

Sara will probably go into more detail in her report.

On 2nd May was the Millenium Plate & Nielson Putting Trophy with May Medal & 1st putting competition.

Barbara Dennis won it with a fantastic phenomenal Net score of 64, Well done Barbara, great score.

On Bank Holiday Monday 6th May, Sara and Dennis Higgins won the Withey Cup with a fantastic score of 42 points. Well done to them and how lovely it was to see a mixed competition on the field.

COUNTY MATCHES

We have our county matches all getting under way, with the Cranworth coming up on the 23rd may, @ rookery against Fynn Valley. Good luck to Captain Rita and all the ladies playing in this.

We have our first Jubilee Match on the 15th of May @ Bungay against Southwold. Good Luck to Caroline and all the ladies playing in this.

The Western is truly under way, with their first match already played on the 27th against Gorleston, HWGL won 3/2, great result, the next one is against Thorpeness @ Thorpeness the 21st may good luck to Captain Viv and all the ladies playing in this.

Sara and Rita had their 1st Haskell Match on the 4th of May @ home against a very strong Woodbridge pairing who won it last year, they were all playing of scratch, so no shots are given, our dynamic duo took on 1.4 and 4.6 handicappers an amazing all square after a hard-fought match of 36 holes, unfortunately they lost on the 37th hole to a birdie. I am extremely proud of their performance, and

they should be extremely proud of themselves. I think both teams enjoyed the combat and both Sara and Rita represented themselves and the club very well as always. Well, done ladies.

I would like to wish all our County Captains all the best going forward, and for all their hard work in organizing teams, food etc. Good luck to you all, and your chosen team of ladies, I will try to get to as many matches as possible going forward. Come on Halesworth Ladies.

Special thank you to Karen for her support and hard work as secretary, and as vice-captain and maintaining all the ladies and mixed friendlies. Well done. Not forgetting Sara, who continues to do a fantastic job with the competitions to make sure they run as smoothly as possible.

Thank you to all the committee members for your support, and hard work, I couldn't do this without you all. Well, done for your continual hard work, and support.

Ladies' Competition Secretary Report: (Sara Higgins)

John Giles and I now in our second year of organising the Dementia Day, firmly fixed for the 1st Wednesday in May. A slightly different take on the day as no shot gun start but that didn't detract the 72 players on the day from signing up, many tee box sponsors, prizes, raffle, donations and a very handsome figure of £6500 raised for The Dementia Carers Fund in Halesworth. Of course the day does not go without the ongoing thanks to the players, the entire Dementia team, FOH, Ellie and Ben, Richard and Ali, the greens team and the main sponsors Suffolk Car Centre, Chris and Harry we are very grateful to you both. Next year is in the diary for May 7th so please keep the date free! The winners and runners up as follows:-

1st	Barbara Dennis, Brian Dennis, Ged Moreton, Robert Moreton	55	
2nd	Gary Flatt, Neil Kenyon, Ryan Lincoln, Miles Savage		56
3rd	Christopher Baker, Colin Hillier, Gerald Jackson, Tony Miles	56	

We had a cheque presentation at the club and most of the Dementia team were present, John and I wish to thank each and every one of you for taking part and look forward to bigger and better things in 2025.

Monthly Competitions

DV 1 Medal

1st	Barbara Dennis(19)	64
2nd	Cathy Chandler(20)	73
3rd	Clare Woods(19)	74

DV 2

1st	Julie Cooper(31)	74
2nd	Ged Moreton(28)	74
3rd	Sue Millard(28)	77

The England Golf Trust yearly stableford competition is a way to raise money via entry fees across clubs in England. This is to enable less fortunate youngsters to access the sport and given a chance to learn golf with all equipment provided. We are pleased to be able to support this external competition in the way we do. This year we sent across £140 which was very well received by the trust. We are yet to hear of Barbara Dennis and Sue Millard will be going on to represent Halesworth in the regional finals, this was passed down from Lesley, Sonia and Maggie unable to go. Well done to all the winners.

DV 1 SF

1st	Lesley King(15)	36
2nd	Barbara Dennis(17)	36 – PUT THROUGH
3rd	Judith Bedwell(16)	35

DV 2

1st	Sonia Lord(26)	32
2nd	Maggie Bennett(28)	31

3rd Sue Millard(28) 31 – PUT THROUGH

Our yearly R&A coronation Foursomes competition is usually really well supported, unfortunately it clashed this year with the Cranworth competition so many ladies were unable to play, even though I had made it an alternate competition over two days.

R&A Coronation Foursomes

1st	Judith Bedwell & Sally Mccoy	36
2nd	Barbara Dennis & Ged Moreton	35
3rd	Rita Fossey & Viv Leech	33

Well done to Judith and Sally for winning this year, we will await to hear how you get on in the regional finals at Eaton Golf Club August 23rd. Good luck to you both.

Our Cranworth Captain Rita Fossey lead out her team at Rookery v Fynn Valley. The foursomes were Sally Baxter & Mandy, followed by Julie & Sue Millard, then the singles followed with Anne, Sally M, Cathy Judd, Sally W and reserve Sally S – lots of Sallys in the mix! Abley helped by caddies Sian, Cathy C, Sara, Viv, Andrea, Sally S, Judith & Angela. It was a tough match and in true Halesworth style all the players dug deep and held onto their belief, strengths and loyalty to their matches which unfortunately proved in the end a defeat for Halesworth. Rita again put everything into her players and team strategy, trust and dedication which makes Rita a true Captain in every sense of the word. Thankyou Rita from all the squad.

Rita and myself played against the defending champions from Woodbridge in the county Haskell match. 36 holes scratch match play. Off to a bit of a rocky start on both sides but managed to settle and start to ease into the match. A home advantage should be an advantage and coming up the 36th hole we remained calm and the win was in touching distance, now only a putt to square the match and onto the 37th hole. A great drive from Woodbridge and in the rough for Halesworth, a great shot onto the green from Woodbridge and a duff shot from Halesworth, then 3 on for us whilst they were walking to their putt albeit a demanding one. Lined up and in for 3 which we could not beat. A tough way but equally gracious in our defeat and well done to Sophie and Melissa. Some great golf played and very sore feet followed. Our thanks to Viv and Cathy for keeping us going the entire way round. Always another year to look forward to.

Our Weston Captain, Viv is really settling well into her role and enjoying putting together a squad of players for the scratch Weston matches this year. In May we played Thorpeness away and came off with a 3/2 win. So we have won two matches with three to play. Well done Viv, keep the winning streak up and good luck to the squad and your remaining matches.

Our Jubilee Captain Caroline formed her team and were drawn for their first round at Bungay v Southwold. It was a very tough match for Sian and Caroline, Rita and Clare, Judith and Barbara, Viv and Susanne but they came home after a long hard fought battle with a win of 3.5 to 0.5 We all wish you luck in your next round which I understand is at Felixstowe v Bramford. With all these matches I will keep you posted!

Bank holiday Monday our yearly Withey Cup played in some pleasant weather at last! 24 players teamed up and set out for battle. Well done to all the winners and for taking part, its always nice to kick start the season with a mixed bank holiday competition.

1st	Dennis Higgins (9) & Sara Higgins (8)	42
2nd	Stephen Boothby (15) & Viv Leech (13)	40
3rd	Clive Seward (10) & Karen Last (16)	40

The club knock outs are running smoothly and players managing to get their matches in before the deadline. A few hiccup's along the way but nothing that cant be resolved. I would like to stress unless its an emergency or health issue extensions will not be granted. My apologies. Well done to Karol Perley for winning the Rabbits trophy summer singles k/o and to Mary Wildish as runner up. Well played ladies and more results to follow as and when they finish.

Mixed & Ladies friendlies – in May we played Hintlesham at home which is our first against them. This was set up in my Captains year having been approached by Hintlesham for a 'please can we play you in a mixed friendly' It was a lovely day of golf and much laughter and fun was had by all, plentiful food, great golf, excellent banter and happy faces when leaving. A 5-3 win for Halesworth and keeping our winning theme out there. Thanks to all for signing up and continuing to support these matches.

We also played the Ladies friendly away at Rookery Park where we scored another victory. Well done everyone.

June and July are looking busy months in the golfing calendar, with much to plan and organise moving forward, some lovely gestures of help and support which the committee are really grateful for, a section we can really rely on. Thankyou.

Ladies' Handicap report : (Lesley King)

New member Jenny Read has now completed her 54 holes for handicap.

Top 3 handicap improvements in the last month

- 1 [Naomi Lane](#) [28.1](#) [27.5](#) 0.6 2.14% 1.015
- 2 [Sally Slaymaker](#) [21.3](#) [20.9](#) 0.4 1.88% 1.012
- 3 [Sara Higgins](#) [8.3](#) [8.0](#) 0.3 3.61% 1.015

Congrats Cathy for an incredible round in Scotland, a diff of 17.2 around Strathmore!
I also added a couple of Scottish cards for Jo Calver, the second one included in top 8, which is fantastic.

The rough is particularly tricky to get out of at the moment, even the first cut can affect your club head, second cut requires you to almost stand on it to find it. What may seem like a lovely day for golf, sun shining and a gentle breeze, as in yesterday (13 June), the PCC was 1.

Ladies' Treasurer's Report : (Viv Leech) So summer is ramping up (really lol??) and so is the golf. On the Charity front we started the Month with Dementia Day which was another great success run by Sara and John and raising an amazing £2706.18 for the local Dementia Group, and subsequently forwarded to them. And ended it with the 666 Golf Challenge for Cathy Chandlers Bobby Moore Bowel Cancer charity, raising £1291.20 from some very generous people at Diss, Gorleston, Bungay, Southwold, Rookery and Halesworth golf clubs.

However, the weather intervened once again in the month resulting in two postponed competitions- The Candlesticks and Queens Platinum Jubilee which obviously leads to loss of funds although hopefully we will recoup these when both are played in 'sunny July & August'....with more ladies playing!!

In addition, this month we held The England Golf Trust Stapleford and the R&A Coronation Foursomes where the total funds are forwarded to the relevant organisations, with no prizes passed on but the winners going forward to play in the competition against other clubs.

So even with a reduction in retained competition funds and outgoing County expenses we still hold just over £1300 in both accounts. With better weather and more club competitions being played going forward and funds retained I feel the section is in a good position with regard to our accounts.

Club Captain's Report:

Since the May Committee meeting on 15.05.24 –

1. I have now played with **54** different members since being appointed captain and continue to seek feedback about the club generally and the course. The surgery I had on 21st May has inhibited my playing currently. So, this figure will remain static for the next month or so. My aim is to be back playing in time for the Club Championship on 10th August

2. I have, however, **retained a presence** at the club by –
 - Supporting the Parks Team on **16.05.24**
 - Captaining the successful Tolly team at Aldeburgh on **26.05.24**
 - I helped 'host' the Suffolk Punch charity golf day on **27.05.24** with Colin Aldous. The day, whilst challenging for the players, was a great success with the charity raising £2k
 - I joined Sara Higgins & John Giles on the **30.05.24**, for the presentation of the Dementia Care cheque for just over £6k, raised on the 01.05.24 Dementia Mixed Golf Day. The volunteers asked me to pass their thanks on to the club for supporting their work.
 - Supporting the Beaumont team on **06.06.24** away at Seckford.
 - The Hambro matches always clash with the Tolly match but I am in contact with Mark & Paul both prior to & following their matches.
 - I have also managed the Tolly practice rounds at Thorpeness **08.06.24 & 15.06.24** (team split across two days)
 - I supported the seniors golf captain with the Seniors Open on **11.06.24** in the morning (I had a hospital apt in the afternoon)
 - I greeted most 'past captains' who were attending the Captains Brassie on **15.06.24** (before leaving for Tolly practice at Thorpeness). Feedback was that despite the awful weather, those attending enjoyed themselves. Event won by 2021/22 past Captain Rob Sherington, with 35 points.

3. **GENTS MATCHES**

Whilst I am currently unable to play in the Gents matches, I have had the much-appreciated **support from Ian Stannard and Rob Sherington**, who have captained the Halesworth matches in my absence. Stan led the team to a 4-2 home win v Southwold on 05.06.24 and RS led the team to a 5.5 to 0.5 win at home v St. Clements on 12.06.24. I have completed all the admin and provided the NTP wine for these matches to make it easier for the temporary captains. In further support, **John Clatworthy** has agreed to captain the upcoming matches versus Eaton (10.07.24 Away & 31.07.24 home) & and **Dave King** will captain the home match v Stowmarket (24.08.24 at home). I had

previously agreed with RS that he would captain the team v Apollo Golf on 09.08.24 (away) & 04.09.24 (home). That leaves a match v the Police on 07.08.24 and the Captains 'away day' which I will be back to oversee.

4. Once again, the **condition of the course** has to be commented upon, with some Bury St Eds players citing if it was 20 minutes nearer to them, they would join the club. The low handicappers on the 'Suffolk Punch charity day' were also complimentary of the conditions of both fairway and greens. There were some comments that the rough was too penal when just off fairway, some of which was due to the issue with the mower breaking down. This has now been repaired. Mark confirms that as soon as we get a run of dry & sunny days it will be easier to maintain height of grass. Fairways, tees and greens have remained in excellent condition.

5. The whole club / staff received **glowing feedback** from both Bury St Edmunds players (Tolly opponents) and Colin Aldous (Suffolk Punch) – about the atmosphere created, the great welcome and general all-round service. Both were envious of what we have at Halesworth as a club.

6. **County Matches update** –

- We played our 2nd round **Tolly** match at home to Bury St Edmunds on the 26th May and had a fantastic '21 up' victory against a strong Bury St Edmunds squad. We were 14 up at lunchtime, with all matches won, then had a solid performance in the afternoon winning three of the four matches 13 up, with a solitary defeat 6 down. A great team effort. Once again it was great to have so much support on the day. **We progress with an away match v Thorpeness on 23.06.24**

- On the same day our **Hambro Team** (managed by Mark & Paul Coby) had a magnificent 18 up win at 'Fynn Valley', winning all of their matches on the day. They now progress through to the next round and travel to Bury St. Edmunds **on 23.06.24**.

- **The Beaumont Team** (managed by Rob Sherington) played at Seckford on **06.06.24** and found a very strong Seckford team just too much on the day, losing 13 down. When opponents are making par's (or birdies) with shots its always going to be tough.

- **The Parks Team** started their defence of the Parks trophy with a home match against Purdis Heath on 16.05.24. After a solid start (up in all matches) the weather conspired to ensure that the match had to be abandoned. Revisiting the match on the 22.05.24 Halesworth were victorious **10 up. The 2nd round match is against Flempton, at home again, on the 20.06.24**

7. **The Race to Woodhall Spa** – Halesworth were represented at the regional qualifier at Stowmarket on **16.06.24** by **Georgie Coby** and **Jack Rawlinson** who both qualified last year. Abysmal weather and general course conditions made it a challenge for all representatives. Georgie overcame a tough start where conditions were at their worst, showed great resilience to claim a credible 22 points, whilst Jack came 20th out of 40 Gents, with 27 points.

8. **The Juniors Fund** - I decided to start an appeal in order to raise funds for the junior section. The idea is to have unused clubs donated by members which we can sell on **Golf**

Bidder or GolfClubs4Cash and transfer proceeds directly into General committee account. Initial response has been excellent. Gradually funds will be transferred straight in to the general committee's bank account. Initial online description of old clubs can lead to some initial valuation errors by buyers. Any money raised will offset costs of open days, club shirts/caps etc and food for away matches. It was great to hear that LH has once again handed over junior membership fees for use toward lessons. So far, we have had **£127.00** transferred into the account, with another **£429.00** being processed currently. We should have flyers up in the changing rooms soon to remind members of the appeal.

9. All plans appear in place for another successful Air Ambulance Day next Friday. I'm sure everyone is keen to play their part in ensuring Gary and his team hit the magic £250,000 raised. Good luck to all involved.

10. Matters raised with me, by members, since my election as Captain continue to be contained within this report
 - A. (Carried forward from last month) I was asked to raise whether we could reconsider having the occasional **competition on a Saturday** to help those that work Monday to Friday and see Sunday as a family day in order to retain their handicap. With pre-qualification required for some competitions in the Gents section and most non-roll-up competitions in the Seniors, this presents a challenge. I have discussed very briefly with RS as handicap secretary and RD and believe it is worth a wider discussion.

 - B. (Carried forward from last month) With competitions booked 2 weeks in advance I have been asked if competition secretaries overseeing knockout competitions could have greater gap between these competitions opening and competition of first match. For those playing in both Gents & Seniors comps it can mean attempting to get 5 competition match dates into a small period of time, especially with potentially other commitments to Club matches, work and County competitions.

11. Suffolk Golf AGM – held at Newton Green on 22.03.24. Still no minutes available as yet.

12. **Recognition of the 20 years' service that Ben Townsend has given to Halesworth golf.**

Through his time as a junior to all the various roles Ben has undertaken, I for one recognise the part that Ben has played in getting HG to where it is today, from those humble beginnings where we were known as 'the farm'. Many clubs now make us their 'choice of venue' to visit for 'away days' society days and to play club matches! It is, of course, a loss to HG that Ben will be leaving at the end of this month, but a huge compliment that HG will continue and the foundations he has helped lay will mean we will continue to get stronger and better as a club.. I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing Ben all the best in whatever venture he next embarks upon.

At the meeting PK's tribute to the work that Ben has done over the years for the club was totally endorsed by the Committee.

05.06.24 Completed admin for Gents match (H) & welcomed Southwold (IS Captaining)
06.06.24 Attended Beaumont 2nd round match v Seckford (A)
08.06.24 Attended Tolly practice 1 at Thorpeness (half team)
11.06.24 Supported Seniors Open by being morning official starter
12.06.24 Completed admin for Gents match (H) v St Clements (RS Captaining)
15.06.24 Attended Tolly practice 2 at Thorpeness. (half team)
15.06.24 Met the attendee's and provided the customary wine for the Past Captains Brassie (PB covering in my absence).
20.06.24 Caddying in the Parks 2nd round match v Flempton (H)
21.06.24 Supporting the Air Ambulance Day
22.06.24 Junior Oder of Merit event (HG)
23.06.24 Captaining the Tolly 3rd round match v Thorpeness (A)
23.06.24 Hambro 3rd round match v Bury St Edmunds (A)
06.07.24 Juniors Open event (HG)
07.07.24 Hosting the Gents Invitation Day
10.07.24 Completing admin for Gents match v Eaton (A)
13.07.24 Completing admin for Gents match v St Clements (A)

Seniors' Captain's Report: Golf and Matches

The Seniors Spring Trophy was held on 24th May and won by Chris Turner with 42 points (71 entrants).

We have had one Stableford Qualifier in June, the top score being John Ward with 40 points (54 entrants).

The June Medal on 7th June was won by brother, Stephen Ward with a nett 72 (57 entrants).

The Seniors Open Pairs was held on 11th June with 84 entrants from various clubs around the area.

The best score was 42 points by Paul Raynes (Halesworth) and Phillip Murphy (Burghley Park). A very successful day and showed the club in a good light.

Unfortunately, the Beaumont team lost their second round match away at Seckford. The Parks team have their second round match at home to Flempton on 20th June.

The Seniors friendly matches have not gone so well in June with 2 losses, both away at Gorleston and Diss but we had a convincing away win at Sprowston. So far, we have played 13, won 6, drawn 2 and lost 5.

The summer competitions are now at 2nd round stage – a few matches have asked for and been granted extensions as long as they have a date set for the match and it is within the time constraints to ensure the next round has time to be played as well.

A Seniors v Juniors match has been arranged for Saturday 13th July and is now on IG.

Winter League

Unless an alternative proposal is forthcoming, the Winter League team for 2024 will be jointly captained by Paul Kent and Larry Gazzard.

New members

We have not been notified of any new senior members as from 1st June.

Committee

At the last Seniors Committee meeting on Tues 21st May 2024 we made decisions on several key issues.

1. A proposal to cap the maximum playing handicap for all competitions at 36, unless otherwise stated, was discussed and a motion was put forward to change with immediate effect. The motion was carried by 8-0 and become active on May 28th 2024. It was discussed beforehand with Richard. The matter will be reviewed in two month's time.
2. All withdrawals from competitions must take place through IG, not via a message on WhatsApp, otherwise there will be no refund. This motion was carried by 8-0.
3. It was agreed that Seniors may enter a competition even if they do not have the correct number of qualifying rounds in place. The Committee voted 8-0 in favour of them being able to pay the entry fee on the understanding they cannot win. Being in the competition would in fact help them gain qualification for future events.
4. Start times for competitions were discussed. It was agreed that I will reword the criteria for start times so it does not become a free for all as players simply slot in without the necessary discussion or negotiation with the competition organiser.
5. A previous item relating to 'extra prize allocation' was revisited. It was agreed by 8-0 that the awarding of prizes in Singles competitions will be limited to the first three in each division. Any other awards were considered too arbitrary. In Pairs competitions however the prize money may be spread out more at the discretion of the competition organiser.

Competition Secretary's Report:

Since the last meeting, **the following competitions have been completed.**

Sunday May 19th – MAY Stableford – 78 Entrants

Winner Michael Fulton 49 Points

2nd Paul Coby 39 Pts

3rd Chris Busby 39 Pts

Sunday June 2nd - JUNE Medal - 81 Entrants

Winner Jack Payne Net 68

2nd Gavin Lugo Net 70

3rd Clifford Brown Net 71

SUMMER SERIES 1 VALLEY COURSE Monday 3rd June – 18 Entrants

Winner Roy King 37 Pts

Runner Up Sally Slaymaker 35 Pts

Best 9 Hole Score Wayne Jacques 19 Pts OCB

Sunday June 9th – JUNE Stableford – 92 Entrants

Winner Alfie Rackham 40 Points

2nd Cameron Bacon 39 Pts ocb

3rd Clive Seward 39 Pts

Saturday June 15th – PAST CAPTAINS Brassie – 11 Entrants

Winner Rob Sherington 35 Points

2nd Craig Lockwood 32 Pts

Sunday June 16th – BATES & CALVER Founders Bowl - 65 Entrants

Winner Daniel Milne Net 71 (Gross 73)

2nd Paul Coby Net 73

3rd Stephen Brown Net 74

Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - Clear current Leader is Danny Smith 70 Pts, 2nd Jack Payne 57 Pts and 3rd Michael Fulton 55 Pts

Gents Summer Eclectic – Current Leader Dennis Higgins Net 60, 2nd Ben Brown Net 61, 3rd Clive Seward Net 61

Summer Singles knockout –

Summer Betterball pairs –

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Friday June 21st AIR AMBULANCE (Good Luck to all involved)
- Sunday June 23rd Gents Additional Betterball
- Saturday June 29th Midsummer Madness 5.30am Shotgun Start **(only 14 signed up email sent out today)**
- Sunday June 30th Gents JULY Medal – Road to Aldeburgh
- Sunday July 7th Gents INVITATION Day **(only 28 signed up last 3 years 84 + players)**
- Sunday July 14th Rearranged Captain Ernie Challenge (Open to ALL)
- Saturday July 21st To be confirmed – Beat the Pro and Ben Challenge!!!!
- Sunday July 28th Gents HANDLEY CUP

At the meeting KF asked that consideration be given to lady members being allowed to play competition golf on Sunday and the ability to sign up at a time of their choosing in the same way as the men. She believes that we are the only club in the local area that does not allow this and a concession here would put us in line with most other clubs. She also made a request that some competitions should be able to be played on Saturday as for some members Sunday was regarded as a family day. The ability of ladies to sign gents cards and vice-versa would also help the above request to become more easily established and this is something that she would like to see promoted. In response RS stated that he had no problem with ladies signing gents competition cards and that a competition did not necessarily need to have a fixed start time but as far as Saturday competitions were concerned he did have to be mindful of the well-established swindles that take place on Saturday morning. He would trial some Saturday competitions with open tee times to see what the response would be.

Handicap Secretary's Report: Nothing to report this month.

Treasurer's Report:

The balance at the bank is £11,635.22, but it is not all ours!

The juniors £5,733.60

The 100 Club £ 292.80

Captain's Charity £ 20.00

The Juniors money includes £47.00 from 'Golf Clubs 4 Cash' and £80.00 from 'Golf Bidder', but the most part comes from the promise that the Juniors subscriptions would be used for coaching, the account is just the depositary.

The cost of County Matches has been £1,218.76.

At the meeting KPB mentioned that the £5,733 available for Junior coaching now enabled RD and AH to continue with as much coaching as was needed. He also made the point that the expenses of £1218 for County Competitions was less than expected due in part at least to the fact that we now have only the Parks team left in the competitions and that a number of our matches have been at home which in turn negates expenditure on practice rounds.

Matters for Discussion:

1. RS agreed to trial Saturday competitions with open tee time as mentioned earlier in the minutes.
2. The time between competitions opening and date for first round completion would be looked at by all competition secretaries to make sure that sufficient time has been allotted.
3. RS's suggestion that the Ben Townsend Award should be given to a member who has done outstanding service to the club or who has managed to overcome extreme circumstances in her/his life was accepted as a suitable criteria on which to base the award. In exceptional circumstances it might even be awarded to someone who was not a member but had some connection to the club. Ben himself was happy with this which was also an important consideration. PB suggested that members could put forward suggestions for the award which would then be down to the Committee to adjudicate. It was agreed that some criteria needed to be established from which a decision could be made but that the Committee was unanimous in accepting this as a general basis from which the award could be decided. The criteria needed would be on the agenda at the next meeting where further discussion could take place.

Health & Safety: Nothing to report

Any Other Business:

JM mentioned that a number of members had asked him if there was a waste bin in the men's changing room. There is of course a bin neatly hidden under the wash basins and BT agreed that a sign on the door of the bin would be helpful in both the men's and ladies' changing rooms.

JM also had some suggested changes for the Friendly Availability Matrix on IG which he would like to forward for their (IG's) consideration. He would forward these suggestions to the other sections first for their consideration.

GS suggested that a £60 entry to the Invitation day event would be more attractive if the meal could be extended to two courses or at least have the option of a dessert course. He felt this

was important as some member's guests would have come a considerable distance to play and it was a great opportunity to showcase the club and all that it has to offer.

Rs reported that the 'Mid-Summer Madness' event was poorly subscribed at present with only about 20 entries. He suggested the usual 5.30 shot gun start could, if necessary, start on the back nine holes as it would open up general tee times earlier. RS also agreed to set up the Staff v Committee match for Ben in July.

100 Club Draw:

- 1) G. Slaymaker
- 2) K. Judd
- 3) G. Bing

The meeting ended with the Committee enjoying a wonderful cake to celebrate Ben's time with the club.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 17th July, 2024 at 7.00pm