

HALESWORTH GOLF

SENIORS COMMITTEE MEETING 3pm Tuesday November 5th 2024

Present: John Meggison JCM; Dave Tower DT; Tom Fletcher TF; Richard Fernley RF; Mike Slater MS; Larry Gazzard LG; Steve Bacon SB and John Morley JM.

Apologies: John Ashton and Andrew Jennings. Both John Ashton and Andrew are standing down from the Committee at the upcoming AGM. A vote of thanks was given by the current Committee and a formal vote of thanks will be given at the AGM on November 29th.

Minutes of previous meeting

The previous minutes of Tuesday 13th August 2024 were accepted as an accurate record of said meeting.

Matters arising: Maximum handicap of 36 in all competitions, unless other stated, will remain. DT to ensure this is updated on IG.

Senior Captains Report:

Golf and Matches

- The Blyth Trophy on 13th Sept was won by Paul Raynes with a net 64, six shots clear of the field.
- The Seniors Stableford Qualifier on Tues 17th Sept was won by Simon Baxter with 40pts.
- The Seniors September Medal on Tues 24th Sept was won by Rob Sherington with a net 67
- The Seniors October Stableford Qualifier on Fri 4th Oct was won by Paul Raynes with 41pts.
- The Seniors Team event on 8th Oct was won by John Kime, Jim Doyle and Michael Hansell.
- The Seniors Captains Away Day at Hintlesham on 17th Oct 2024 had 30 entrants and was won by Roy King.
- The Seniors Memorial Trophy on 25th October was won by Steve Popple.
- The Winter Knockout out comps have started and reminders sent out.

We have 2 **Seniors friendly matches** yet to play, both away at Caister and Rookery. So far, we have played 30, won 14, drawn 5 and lost 11. The 34 fixtures for 2025 are confirmed in IG and include fixtures at Southwold (re-instated), Hintlesham (for the second year) and Barnham Broom (for the first time).

The Suffolk Golf Union **County competition fixtures** have been published. Halesworth have received two first round 'Bye's' (Stenson & Beaumont), two home draws (Hambro and Parks) with only one away draw (Tolly). This is much improved from recent years draws. Captains for the teams are Paul & Mark Coby (Stenson & Hambro teams), Paul Kent (Tolly), Rob Sherington (Beaumont) and Ian Stannard (Parks).

Winter League

The Winter League fixtures kicked off with a home match today against Bungay which was a 2-2 draw. The next match is away at Rookery Park on 7th Nov. We have 29 Seniors currently registered for the squad. The HGC Winter League team for 2024 is captained by Larry Gazzard.

New Senior members

Two new members have been notified to us in the last month (as from 1st Nov) – John Summers and Simon Tennant. Steve Bacon will be emailing them soon.

Seniors Committee

- The Seniors held their last meeting on Tues 13th August 2024. The minutes are now on the club web site.
- We are pleased to announce that Andy Francis has agreed to be the Seniors Vice Captain for next year.
- The rest of the committee have indicated a desire to stay on apart from John Ashton who has informed us that he will retire from the committee at the end of his term.
- The Seniors AGM is booked for 1pm on Friday 29th Nov 2024, directly after a 10 hole roll-up stableford competition on the Blyth course. We have previously agreed to move the presentation of our trophies to after the AGM instead of at our Christmas Dinner. (The Club AGM will be held later the same day – Friday 29th Nov - at 7pm. The Gents section will be providing a buffet at their AGM.)
- The Seniors Christmas Dinner will be on Friday 6th Dec - arrangements are in hand with the Vice Captain.
- I have now received the glassware from Lesley Pike for our AGM and presentation.
- I have been through the trophies for engraving with Rob who will be taking them to the engravers some time soon.

The Course:

- On the Blyth course two new paths have been completed. One to the right of the 3rd green and the other to the left of the 11th green. This will prove particularly helpful in winter conditions.
- The **greens** on the golf course have recovered remarkably quickly from their hollow tining. To confirm, it has been agreed with BT that next year all sections should avoid having qualifying competitions on the course for the two weeks following this work. Next year's work 'may' also be delayed due to the potential of HG hosting the final of the 2025 Parks competition.

- Many seniors volunteered to help with removing stones from bunkers in September – a great effort.
- **General tee times** are now available to book four weeks in advance. This allows better management of tee times and greater flexibility/ability to plan ahead for all golfers. This will be reviewed in due course. Senior comps will remain with two weeks notice.
- BT confirmed there are no plans to plant trees along the first fairway in order to create definition for that hole and ‘separation’ from the second. He said there is an issue regarding drainage down the hill which may impede any such planting. However, there was a course inspection by JH, BT and MC on 13.10.24.
- BT confirmed that whilst JH did not purchase the ‘Sun Club’ property (another buyer did) he is in negotiations with the new owner who is looking to exit ownership. BT will provide an update should there be one.

Annual Handicap Review – this took place on Monday October 15th involving Club Captain PK, Seniors Captain JM & Handicap Secretary RS. (Please see main Club minutes for full details).

Club Update:

- There will be a fitting day on 17th November with further details to follow.
- Two Junior days have been scheduled for the half-term holiday.
- A big thank you to Dave Tower for running another very successful Quiz Night with 55 people in attendance.
- Xmas Party Nights scheduled for 7th and 14th December.
- Tickets for the New Year’s Eve Party are going well.
- The Ladies do not yet have a Vice-Captain for 2025.
- The new Ben Townsend Award will be going to Eric Felgate.

Matters arising:

Result of Summer Pairs competition omitted from list Trophy/Competition winners. **Action** - update Clickers will be trialed on a voluntary basis to try and speed up slow play. **Action**- available from Pro shop.

There will be one/two vacancies on the next Committee. **Action** - JCM to advertise
 Andrew Frances has agreed to become Seniors Vice Captain. **Action** - Proposed by DT and seconded by RF. **Action** - All Committee members to be ratified at next AGM on November 29th.

Secretary's Report submitted on file by JM.

Matters arising. The Committee unanimously agreed the proposal by JM that Seniors friendly matches should not henceforth take place after October 31st.

Treasurers Report submitted on file by MS.

This was followed by Subsidiary Report, which is also on file. There followed a discussion on the current allocation of funds for prize money and engraved glassware. A 75% flat rate payout currently applies but this could vary a little to give more flexibility. DT suggested a nearest the pin prize to be incorporated within the prize structure. However, it was thought this might be unworkable as such a prize (for one hole) could exceed prize money for the whole competition. Such inclusions, involving a hole in one could be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator for that day. For knock outs there would be no such payments. **Action:** guidelines needed so that everyone understood the rationale behind the prize money structuring. Rob Sherington suggested another way of organising prize money that may involve a top overall prize above that of Divisional winners. He wished this to be discussed at the upcoming AGM.

Other matters arising:

Any Committee changes must be accompanied by a proposer and seconded. Andrew Francis was nominated for Seniors Vice Captain. Proposed by DT and seconded by RF.

Team expenses for regional competitions like the Parks, Beaumont etc. This followed on from a discussion by the main Club Committee. Various options were considered and the view of the Seniors Committee was that the practice rounds, a buggy for the Captain and coffee at a home match for both teams would be justified. Provision of food would not. JCM did indicate that there was likely to be considerably more deliberation on this issue in the near future so we await developments that would constitute action.

AOB:

LG suggested that some other clubs were looking to use Hambro scoring in the Seniors friendlies. The Committee felt this could be done for that day if both clubs agreed.

Chris Turner raised a number of points concerning the new narrow flags on the greens and the length of the grass cut on the approach to some greens. JCM said that such things were Club decisions but we will raise it with them.

DT announced the dates for upcoming Committee meetings in 2025. February 4th, 6th May, 5th August and 4th November 2025.

The % Handicap for competitions will remain the same as under the written competition rules but the reference point is Course Handicap not Playing Handicap. The Holton Shield had led to a little confusion in relation to this, so perhaps reference to the basis for that and any other similar

competitions involving teams incorporating different handicaps needs highlighting in advance of said competitions.

Following on from the success of the recent Captains Challenge, DT proposed a second such match on 30 May next year. Further Action will involve possibly an extra Team Scramble in June as well as the relocation of both the Metfield Mug and Wenhaston Trophy to later in the year.

JCM announced the final matrix of appearances in the Seniors Friendlies will be made available to the Committee after the last match against Rookery Park on 13 November.

He also proposed changes to the Blyth Trophy and Wolfe Cup to avoid any confusion of eligibility that may be occurring if they remain on different days. **Action:** Blyth reserved for Div 1 and Wolfe for Div 2 and 3. Both competitions to be played on same day.

Winter and Summer pairs competitions to be played off yellow tees.

Several members supported the idea that there should be a maximum of two qualifiers per month. Not all roll ups are qualifiers but members can pre-register cards for handicap purposes if they wish. The handicap limit to remain at current level or as stated in individual competition rules.

The being no other business the meeting closed at 4.24pm.

Date of next meeting is Friday 29th November: Seniors AGM and Prize Giving and 4th February 2025: Seniors Committee

JM: Seniors Secretary: November 2025.