

## **Minutes of Mens Section Committee Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Glen Lodge Clubhouse**

Present: Justin Warr JW, Mark Cocker MC, Tony English TE, Greg Gladwell GG, David Bawden DB, Jake Keeley JK, Chris Goddard CG, Graham Locke GL, Paul Waymark PW, and Alfie Gotts AG

1. Apologies; None
2. Minutes of MSC meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 approved and signed by JW.
3. Matters arising from minutes 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023
  - 3.1 Feedback from office, none received, AG to extend request to Callum
  - 3.2 Members member of the year. Nominations from 2022 voted upon, Richard Bunn was carried as winner, JW to present Richard 26<sup>th</sup> March at next Myhill practice. Agreed to award 2023 winner at Millennium Trophy day 1<sup>st</sup> January, and to maintain existing nomination, and voting process. MC to request nominations from September onwards.
  - 3.3 Annual Rules review, completed in line with January meeting minutes
  - 3.4 Bank account on line access, now completed
  - 3.5 Junior transition from NFGC coaching to Bawburgh members. Taken forward by CG but little progress made, and considered closed.
  - 3.6 Co opted committee member. JW invited applicants from off peak membership, with Paul Waymark invited and accepted to join committee.
  - 3.7 Winter and summer OOM learnings, sub committee. Adjustments to summer OOM, in line with launch this month. Paul Greengrass was fully engaged with the amendments, and requested for his name to be removed from the OOM title, and trophy returned to him. JW to e mail Paul to confirm. Early numbers very strong for all three OOM, plus scratch event already up to 11. During debate, Champion of Champions discussed, agreed prize money 1<sup>st</sup> £25, 2<sup>nd</sup> £15, 3<sup>rd</sup> £10, as winning was seen as the key component. Agreed winter KO pairs winners to be included, so 19 to be included from 2024 C of C. AG to amend rules after this year.
  - 3.8 Slow play policy messages. The office created posters generally well received, plus posting on the TV and marshalling. JW to approach office encouraging 2 balls to join other 2 balls within a near tee time, plus asking for the “you should be at this point” course notices, to be displayed. Later starting student members were sited as often being slow, JW to take forward with office, plus requesting the removal of letting faster groups through from the posters, as seen as further slowing play.
  - 3.9 New Committee members updated pictures, MC and PW now included and item closed
  - 3.10 Trophy winners photos, JW to chase again
  - 3.11 Bawburgh Masters trophy, now purchased, and agreed to update only with 2023 onwards winners
  - 3.12 BRS competitions listings. JW to further chase office
4. Captains Report

**Captains Report: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March.**

Hopefully with most of the cold weather behind us and only a couple of weeks until the main season starts it seems to have been a busy two months.

The entrants for the optional competitions have been good considering, with 715 entries in January and 917 entries in February. I suspect the weather had an impact in January.

The summer knockout competitions are already attracting good numbers with more expected to enter before the deadline. Summer Knockout (54), Stewards (48), Alex Birrell (35 pairs) and the Scratch Knockout (13).

As you are all aware there has been a huge amount of time and effort towards reconfiguring the OOM which hopefully we will see players enter following the correspondence sent. Thank you to Tony English, Jake Keeley and David Bawden who have really produced a great framework moving forward for all levels of golfer. I would also like to recognise the time and effort Greg Gladwell has put into this project with such fine timelines, Thank you.

Chris Ingram and Gary Clarke have completed all the Handicap fixtures which commence on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April Away to Mattishall. A fantastic response from 58 interested players which I'm sure they will have fun managing and bringing success during the year.

We have had 16 players interested in the Myhill Team and over 20 players for the Cullington (Well Done to Mark Cocker and Jason Mudd) which again is positive and will be interesting to see how the first get together session goes on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The Barnard team has a bye in the first round and Steven has kindly organised some practice sessions on Wednesdays through April and May with tee times from 11.00. The sign-up sheet will be advertised over the next couple of weeks.

I attended the first Exec committee meeting of the year which went well. The main concern raised from all sections involved the current condition of the fairways and whether we could look to leave the grass slightly longer. Jamie agreed that he would trial this over the next couple of months and see what reaction he received from members.

Robert and Jamie confirmed that they expected the 16<sup>th</sup> Green to be open for the start of the main season and were pleased with its progress. They also mentioned that the Pond on the 18<sup>th</sup> Hole near the green needs the liner changing due to multiple holes which they also plan to complete ASAP.

The junior section was also discussed with Robert Barnard, Jamie Goose, Justin Warr and Tony English which referenced the depleting numbers of juniors, and it was felt that the Juniors should be a separate, independent section within Bawburgh Golf Club.

This should be managed by a junior organizer and reporting directly to Bawburgh Golf Club. We also referenced that the Men's Section would continue to support the Junior Section with a recommended annual contribution.

This meeting went well and I met with Chris Goddard to evaluate his thoughts moving forward. This we can also discuss at the MSC meeting.

Feedback from the office is that the speed of play notices and the regular appearance of the buggy with optional coloured flags has certainly got members talking but also thinking about speed of play. Hopefully this will continue through the year. Thank you to the office staff for this additional support.

Finally, I would like to Thank and wish Harry all the best in his new role and although Chris I'm sure will manage, he will be leaving a large hole not only for the Golf club but for the Men's Section as well. His service over the years has been fantastic. Luckily, he will continue to play his golf at Bawburgh and we will see him most weekends I suspect.

## 5. Treasurers Report

### Treasurer's report by Tony English

Figures presented cover the 2 month period to 28/2/2023.

Due to adverse weather conditions particularly in December entry numbers covering the first 4 months were down 269 v 213 YOY. The course was closed 6 times due to icy conditions. Entry fee increase kicked in 1st January but too early to assess impact.

Spire confirmed £400 sponsorship of Masters for this year.

Captains charity - income of £66 relates to competitions where there were no birdie 2 winners.

Misc income £210 relates to sale of old honours boards.

On expenditure side £200 for new Masters trophy to replace jacket/clothing for winner.

Committee agreed £100 gift to HB via WA - ratified for minutes - will be on March figures

Bank balance stands at £7672.36

## 6. Junior Organisers Report

Not much to report this early on in the year for the Juniors, numbers are still low but hopefully will pick up, fingers crossed.

I have been speaking with Sonny again from PF and have asked for him to speak with the current juniors and their parents to see if some can be pushed towards the club, I have suggested maybe when the weather gets better we put on some kind of fun competition on the nine hole to introduce them to the current playing juniors, maybe a kind of Ryder Cup style comp.

I haven't heard much from the current Juniors and what they have been up to so far, I put this down to the horrible weather, I have seen Archie and Sully will be playing in the Suffolk Scholls Championships this coming Monday.

Haydon and Sully have Norfolk U18 games coming up, first one this Sunday at Eaton.

Haydon, Sully and Toby have all been selected this year for the county, Haydon is in the U16's and U18's, Sully is in the U14's, U16's and U18's and Toby will be in the U14's, this will be Toby's first year for the county.

I will be arranging the teams for the upcoming Bass knockout, first round against Dereham.

After my meeting with Justin regarding the Juniors and moving away from the MSC and reporting directly to the Golf Club, I have expressed my feelings and said I would be more than happy for that to happen and completely understand the reason, we can discuss this more in the meeting.

Following report, the position of Junior Organiser was discussed, and agreed with committee and the club this position better sits within the club, rather than MSC. Harry Brister's successor, will support this transition. Agreed to fund £25 per active junior member to a maximum of £250, plus invite juniors to compete for a silver medal, amateur Open Championship, styled award within the club championships. AG to check rules, and explore further options at next meeting.

## 7. Handicap Secretary's Report

### **Update for MSC meeting 14 March 2023 - Handicap Secretary Report**

The only notable activity since the last MSC meeting was an England Golf / NCGU Handicap Secretaries Workshop that took place earlier in March 2023. Greg Gladwell attended along with the Ladies Handicap Secretary. This was largely a recap on where we are on WHS with some pointers provided on how handicap calculations can be abused and the likely penalties for any one caught attempting to manipulate (withdrawal of Handicap Index meaning they can not play competitive golf).

There was a reminder that Handicap Committees are responsible for ensuring courses are measured and laid out in accordance with EG rules, and any course that is not compliant makes rounds non qualifying for WHS purposes. Greg works with the Golf Office on this already.

The PCC was discussed. Some clubs have seen virtually zero movement in their PCC through the year. BGC has seen the full range of -1 to +3 so for some reason BGCs results are more sensitive to movement. The formula workings are not available for anyone to understand exactly how it works.

A detailed review of how Course Ratings are calculated was explained and Robert Barnard confirmed that Bawburgh will be re-rated shortly because of course changes (primarily to the 16th but also a few other small tweaks like bunkers being removed).

Meantime I can update the MSC to advise that there are currently only 4 male members who are over their 5 shot hard cap (Handicap Index is more than 5 shots above the Low Handicap Index in the last 365 days), and 50 members are subject to their soft cap (between 3 and 5 shots over their Low Handicap Index in the last 365 days). This is not unexpected given the amount of competitive golf played through the winter and the tough course conditions, added to the exceptionally dry conditions in the summer that saw some Handicap Indexes reduced to artificially low levels. The Handicap Secretaries have no plans to intervene on any individual handicap reviews until a good number of rounds are played under typical summer course conditions.

Jake and I have tabled to the MSC agenda a discussion on Texas Scramble Handicaps - exact or rounded. What's App group discussion refers. Happy to pick that up under Handicap Secs Report session if needs be.

8. Myhill and Cullington Teams update. First practice sessions well received. Agreed to discuss at Septembers meeting a proposal for interested members to hold a 3 year tenure in conjunction with the Captain and Vice Captain to help select and manage both teams, plus the handicap league squads.
9. Texas Scramble handicap rounding. Agreed to amend to exact handicaps rather than rounding to nearest whole number. JW to remind office to amend their system, plus a reminder that ladies within a TS team must tee off the green tees. AG to amend rules
10. Old Trophies, returned to MSC by the office. TE agreed to find a suitable home for these.
11. Any Other Business  
Competition cut off times to be changed to a sunset finish, JW to request office to amend BRS  
Previous honours boards, sale of old boards continues. MSC agreed budget adjustment for new boards to £3295.

Meeting Closed 8.21 PM