



**SOCIETY OF HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING AT ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB
3pm ON TUESDAY 18th APRIL 2023**

PRESENT Captain and in the Chair, Simon Tansley, Vice-Captain Brian Macdonald, IPC Neil Hewitt, Bob Howell Hon Treasurer, Messrs: Rees, Brookes, Barnes, Melvyn Rose Hon Auditor and Eric Diment Hon Secretary.

Apologies – None

Minutes – Those for the meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 after an alteration to show the Hon Auditor in attendance were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- a) **Membership and Subscriptions** – Sadly, over the last 5 years we have seen a reduction of about 10% in our numbers despite new members joining each year. We currently stand at 457 down from 506 in 2019. Subscriptions are slightly up, reflecting the new subs being £30. The committee agreed that those members who hadn't responded to numerous requests from the Hon Treasurer to pay would be removed from the database forthwith.
- b) **Crameri Cup** – This is progressing well; 85 teams have entered. Sadly, only one each from Berkhamsted, Ashridge and East Herts and there was no response from Manor of Groves.
- c) **Society Website** – This is now up to date with a planned transition from Eric Wyllie to Phil Greenwold this summer. The committee thanked Eric for his hard work over the years.

Captains Report

Very little to report since the last meeting except our annual dinner which was seen as a success by the majority of attendee who seemed to enjoy the evening. The Captain and Hon Sec have recently attended the black-tie dinners of Cambridgeshire at Queens College, an exceptional building and Essex at Orsett Hall last Friday and had a very enjoyable time at both.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's reported was circulated to the committee and is broadly in line with expectations being very early in the financial year. The surplus from Xmas Fayre was down on past years but reflects the increase costs we are experiencing. The annual dinner also had a slight surplus when the costs of entertaining our guests are excluded and the remaining figures are typical for this time of the year as we are currently holding additional reserves as money has been collected for events due over the next month.

There was then a discussion within the committee as to who should pay for what in terms of those holding posts within the society. It was unanimously agreed that the following procedure would be adopted going forward. All officers of the Society, other than the Hon Sec would be liable for their own costs to attend and play in our events, including the cost of hosting a halfway house when Captain, Vice Captain, and President. The exception being Xmas Fayre when the society will fund the cost of the halfway house. To ensure consistency and transparency the Hon Sec will ensure all post holders are formally written to in detail explain this along with their responsibilities associated with the role prior to appointment.



Hon. Secretaries Report

Fixtures and Meetings 2023 – Sadly, the first fixture for this season succumbed to the recent poor weather and the match with the County Juniors on April 4th had to be cancelled as Essendon was closed. It is unlikely that we will find an alternative date for this season. This prompted a discussion with Herts County about only having one fixture going forward in 2024 as last October they were unable to raise a team for the fixture. This was discussed and it was agreed by the Committee that the April date being the easiest for both sides to participate in would be the only fixture in the future.

Members signing up for events and matches has been poor with little interest from some clubs. So far Captains Day is around 50 with the odd addition likely. The match against London on the 9th May is still short of several participants but hopefully we will meet the required 20 soon. At this point in time there is insufficient responses to complete a match matrix for 2023.

The Hon Sec raised the issue of whether the liaison officer role is working at some clubs. A discussion was held regarding trying to meet some of them in person to see if interest can be regenerated or find out what the issues are. The Hon Sec agreed to speak to several clubs, including Harpenden, South Herts, Porters Park and Berkhamsted.

Committee Membership – A discussion ensued regarding the size of the committee as we can elect up to 6 members in addition to the Captain, VC, IPC, and Hon Treasurer. Currently, we only have 3 members but acknowledge that as an elected member you can only serve for 3 years but shall be eligible for secondment thereafter. It was decided at this point to keep the committee as elected and the Hon Sec will speak with 2 potential members.

Society Clothing – The Hon Sec thanked the Hon Treasurer for his help and assistance in transitioning the clothing to the stewardship of Kaz Donald, following the declining health of Ray Johnson. The committee thanked Ray for his service over the years and wished him well.

Annual Dinner – The recent Annual Dinner on the 2nd March at Aldwickbury Park GC was discussed. We had 164 attendees including the guest speaker and various guests from other counties and was seen as a success. The membership has been canvassed for their feedback and the Hon Sec and VC, Brian have already met with the Club General Manager to debrief the event and explore opportunities to improve the evening going forward. Whilst it was acknowledged that changes could be made for future events the evening was deemed a success. Discussions are now ongoing for next year, Thursday 7th March. The entertainment has been confirmed, Ian Irving has agreed to host and in the absence of any other golf club able and willing to host an event of this size APGC has been rebooked.

Any other Business – Several grateful thanks were made, the Captain thanked the committee for their support throughout his tenure, Neil Hewitt, was thanked for his service over many years as this would be his last meeting as the outgoing IPC. A brief discussion was also had regarding the tenures for both the Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary as they have been in post for 6/7 years already.

Date of the next meeting..... TBC for August.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4.20pm

Eric Diment Hon. Secretary 19.04.23