



**SOCIETY OF HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING AT ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB
ON MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2020**

PRESENT Captain and in the Chair, Richard Blanchflower, Vice Captain Neil Hewitt, IPC Jan Cembala, Bob Howell Hon Treasurer, Messrs: Tansley, Rees, Macdonald, Barnes, Melvyn Rose Hon Auditor and Eric Diment Hon Secretary

Apologies – None

Minutes – Those for the meeting held on Thursday 29th August 2019 were agreed as a true record after a slight amendment regarding those present and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Crameri Cup – The 2019 competition was successfully concluded at Porters Park at our Autumn Meeting which saw Paul Bryce and Alan Ragless from Panshanger Golf Club winning 4 & 3 from Robert Hewlett and Geoff High of Whitehills Golf Club. Bob Howell, the organiser, reported that the competition was on track for 2020 with 45 clubs having been invited to enter and so far, 30 had entered. He will produce the initial draw on time in March. There was a brief discussion surrounding whether the results should be shown on our website, however the consensus is that we host the event rather than it being for Past Captain's and therefore we would retain the current position.

Society Website – Eric Wyllie has updated the website recently and will continue to do so and look to evolve it further during the year.

Retiring Captains Gift – These have now been ordered and will see each retiring Captain receive an engraved tankard on a wooden plinth.

Captains Report

The Captain, Richard Blanchflower produced a comprehensive report and these minutes reflect a precis of those.

The Mixed Meeting held once again at Arkley who once again proved to be excellent hosts. Congratulations to Peter and Sue Barnes on winning with an excellent score of 37 points. Our match against Bedfordshire was a very windy day with tough conditions at South Beds and my first time at this course. A tight match but we lost the last 2 matches to go down 6-4 so our hosts reclaimed the Pearson Plate. Northamptonshire was another first time for me at the very good Northampton GC on the Althorp Estate on a lovely sunny day. We drew 4-4 but our hosts kept the trophy being the present holders. The annual match with the Herts Lady Captains was achieved due to thanks to Aldwickbury Park for stepping in at late notice to host another popular day. Winners were John Aldridge and Mike Finlay with their two lady partners with an excellent score of 81 points. The Autumn Meeting and Crameri Cup final was played as scheduled at Porters Park. The Crameri Cup Final was won by Panshanger. The Herts Captains fourball better ball competition saw the top 4 pairs all with scores within 1 point but eventual winners were Doug Barson and Tim Fox.

Our annual match with the Herts under 16 boys at Chesfield Downs was a mixture of thrill and envy watching the boys hit it 50 or 60 yards past us from the tee. Always an enjoyable match. Our last annual dinner of the year was the London Captains Dinner, held in Kensington and Eric and I enjoyed excellent hospitality from our hosts. To date I have not had to endure some of the inedible meals suffered by our sadly departed past Captain Robert Browning! Xmas Fayre for the third year running we suffered extreme weather (rain!) the previous night and it was down to the Herculean efforts of Brookmans Park green staff which enabled us to hold a 9-hole competition off both tees.



In a controversial (with some) break with tradition the committee agreed that the Captain should be allowed to play so I didn't help the situation by winning with my partner Bill Belger with 24 points. Once again, a tremendous turnout of 130 playing Past Captains and I made a point of thanking members for their support over the year.

Treasurer's Report

Audited Accounts and Treasurer's report for 2018/19 – These documents were circulated to the committee before the meeting. The Hon Treasurer produced accounts up to the year end, 31st October 2019 fully audited. Our income was similar to the previous year, the only exception being the surplus on meetings. We continue to hold the price to members although costs charged by host clubs are creeping up. The only significant variance was the 2018 Christmas Fayre with higher costs and the Spring meeting, which was poorly attended. Expenditure was generally a little lower than last year except for the 2018 dinner and the deficit on match fees. We deliberately enhanced the dinner entertainment with the return of Martin Toal and Sally. Their additional cost was funded out of the 2017/18 surplus. Additionally, the meal was more expensive, having been held for several years. We made a modest surplus of £541 to which is added the £500 contribution to the 2019 dinner made from the previous year. Our cash resources remain healthy with over £17k in the bank. It is not our intention to build this any further and to try and run your society at or near break-even; hence your committee's decision to not increase any prices paid by members in 2020.

Auditor's report - The Hon Auditor agreed with the Hon Treasurer and had signed off the accounts.

Financial Position for 2019/20 - The Hon Treasurer produced a predictive spreadsheet for the year ahead which broadly shows income and expenditure being similar for 2020 which should leave a modest surplus to be transferred to the general fund. The aim of the Society is not to grow the reserves any further at this point.

2020 Subscriptions progress report – We currently have 498 members, 95 who are Honorary and allowing for those who are current Captains and not required to pay a subscription in January and those who we know pay later in the year there are 24 outstanding subscriptions. This include where there is no SO and 7 where a SO was in place but not paid. The Hon Treasurer is working with the LO at the Clubs to resolve the discrepancies, but this had already led to the resignation of 2 members.

Hon. Secretaries Report

Fixtures 2020 – These are all on track and costs for the majority already agreed with the clubs. Negotiations around costs for all events continue to be tough and some clubs are now excluding themselves as they are asking £25 or more for a 'Green Fee'. Sadly, this was the case in playing the Mixed Invitation at Hadley Wood, so we have reverted again back to Arkley. Negotiations with Leicestershire and the Hon Sec failed to deliver a confirmed new fixture, but Buckinghamshire requested that the Harley trophy be played for annual again outside of the Four Counties fixture and therefore from 2020 the annual fixture with Bucks has been reinstated for a trial period. Hertfordshire will host the first event at Welwyn Garden City in May.

Fixtures 2021 – There was discussion as to the merits of holding an event outside of Hertfordshire to see if attendances would increase. The Hon Sec agreed to undertake some research, consult the membership and report back to the Committee.

Nominations of Committee Members for election at the AGM – there was one proposal following discussions, that being Nick Brookes from Letchworth which was supported by the Committee and will therefore be raised at the AGM.

Greetham Valley - Away Weekend. This is progressing slowly and Phil Bibby the organiser is keen for more members to sign up. Several rooms have been reserved but not yet filled. The Hon Sec agreed to send out a further update to Liaison officers.



Society Clothing – Ray Johnson continues to provide a first-rate service and has continued to sell stock at a steady rate including the new polo shirts, jumpers and rainwear. The website needs amending with the new stock prices as does the application form to join the Society (post meeting note, book now undertaken)

County Dinners – The Captain and Hon Sec attended the London Captains Dinner and have already received notification for the following dinners in 2020, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Northants.

Annual Dinner – The Holiday Inn has already been booked for Thursday 5th March 2020, The Guest speaker Ian Irving has been confirmed and deposits paid to both. Arrangements are in hand for the meal and circulated to the membership.

January Papers – In hand to be completed at the end of the month following this meeting

Match Fees – As previously discussed these will remain largely unchanged again although this is probably the last year that will be possible as clubs are looking intently at their revenue streams and costs.

Presidency – This was discussed, and the Hon Sec will write to potential post holders who have been Past Captains as to their desire to fulfil the role. The constitution allows for any member of the Society with at least 10 years membership to be proposed for this role. However, it has been the precedent that Past Captains are offered the role first.

Any other Business –

The issues of when to play for Jubilee Silver Salver presented by the London Captions was discussed again. The proposal is for it to be played for annually at the match against the Captains Club, therefore it will always remain at the Captains Club and be displayed.

The Hon Sec will ask Liaison officers to inform him if any club is approaching its Centenary year as in the past, we have played a fixture against such clubs to honour the achievement.

Date of the next meeting..... Tuesday 21st April 2020, 12 noon at APGC for golf, meal and meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.30 pm

Eric Diment Hon. Secretary 03/02/2020