



**SOCIETY OF HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING AT ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB
ON THURSDAY 29th AUGUST 2019**

PRESENT Captain and in the Chair, Richard Blanchflower, IPC Jan Cembala, Bob Howell Hon Treasurer, Messrs: Tansley, Rees, Macdonald and Eric Diment Hon Secretary

Apologies – Neil Hewitt and Peter Barnes

Minutes – Those for the meeting held on Thursday 19th April 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Membership - This remains steady with just over 500 with 14 new members this year to date and there are no outstanding subscriptions.

Crameri Cup –Bob Howell, the organiser, reported that the competition was on track and progressing well. 2 of the semi-finalists have been confirmed as Panshanger B and Old Fold Manor B with the other 2 quarter finals yet to be decided. Aldenham A v Whitehill A and Dyrham Park A v East Herts B. There was a brief discussion where Bob confirmed the rules of the competition allowed the use of buggies, the fact that entrants had been repeated reminded about the date of the final. 9th October at Porters Park and likely venues for the semi-final. The Chair stated that he believed Brookmans Park would be supportive of any approach.

Captains Report

The Captain, Richard Blanchflower produced a comprehensive report that has been circulated to all committee members and these minutes reflect a precis of those.

The Captain described the events he had and attend as well as those within the Society that had taken place since the AGM. This included the annual match against the London Captains which results in a 6-4 win at South Herts. Letchworth in the constant drizzle saw another win 5.5 – 2.5 v Suffolk Captains and Royston hosted the Triangular with Cambridge and Essex allowing Herts to regain the Trophy and return the wooden spoon to Essex. The Four Counties was a successful away trip with Herts managing a creditable 2nd place and regaining The Harleyford trophy from Bucks. The annual Inter Club Moor Park fixture saw Aldwickbury Park lift the Trophy with as always, a large field and well supported. Internal events included The Spring Meeting at West Herts a last-minute replacement for Potters Bar which saw the Captain, Club Captain and Peter Chapman lead the field home. Presidents Day, where Willie stole the show at Harpenden Common, but Phil Greenwold lifted the Trophy. Vice Captains Day at OFM saw the Harpenden Common duo of Rob Kent win the Summer Trophy and Committee member Brian Macdonald the Quaich. Additional Commitments saw the Captain and Secretary attend the Herts Salver at Brookmans Park to present the prizes as the sponsors of the event. Attendance at Norfolk in the drizzle again, Suffolk and Northants Presidents Day's complete the picture the home course of Carley Hull being the positive not the rain again!

Treasurer's Report

Financial Position for 2019/20 - The Hon Treasurer produced accounts up to the end of July which were circulated to the committee. An attempt at projecting the year-end figures & reckon the surplus for the year has been made and will be in the £250/300 region plus the £750 contribution to the 2019 dinner set aside in last year's accounts, taking the



surplus to be transferred to the general fund being circa £1,000. This is assuming the trend continues of a reduced surplus at meetings which is linked to attendance figures decreasing. However, with our reserves the accounts are healthy.

Hon. Secretaries Report

Fixtures 2019 -2021 – The Hon Sec informed the Committee that there had been a change of venue for the annual fixture this year with the Lady Captains from Hammonds End to Aldwickbury Park at the request of the Ladies. The fixtures for 2021/2 are all in place other than those that are away are rely on the opposition. Negotiations around costs for all events continue to be tough and some clubs are now excluding themselves as they are asking £25 for a ‘Green Fee’. There was a discussion around low attendance at some events and there was a consensus that we could look to amend a fixture to allow a rolling evening meal and commence with an informal/limited lunch and start earlier and the Hon Sec agreed to look at which event might benefit from such a trial.

Negotiations have been successful with Leicestershire and the Hon sec is hopefully of a new fixture from 2020, with the fist venue being Hinckley Golf Club. A further discussion ensued around a new event such as a Captains Away trip allowing an overnight stay, again the Hon sec agreed to look at some options prior to the next Committee Meeting.

The Hon Sec informed the Committee that Hertfordshire Golf and changed the format of their Annual Captains/Secretaries meeting to a four ball. Therefore, in the future years the event with involve the captain., Vice captain, IPC and Hon Sec. If anyone is not available, then it will be offered to Committee members to attend

Nominations of Committee Members for election at the AGM – Following Peter Barnes accession to the committee the Hon Sec reported that reluctantly and with sound reasons Doug Chalmers had declined the offer. A discussion took place around suitable candidates and the Hon Sec. agreed to raise the issue again at the next meeting.

Stoke by Nayland- Away Weekend. This was deemed a success and enjoyed by most of those who attended with the numbers increased to normal levels by the event. However, during the post event discussions many felt the course was to taxing given the attendees. A brief discussion ensued regarding suitable venues without a consensus. Phil Bibby agreed to undertake further research and eventually Greetham Valley was finally chosen and so far, 10 couples have paid a deposit to attend. The Hon Sec raised the issue that due to the age profile of the membership many couples are reluctant to commit so early to such an event with a non-refundable deposit. There was a brief discussion as to whether the Committee felt it was appropriate to pay deposits and then then try to sell the additional capacity nearer the time. The Hon Treasurer stated that he was not opposed to such a request and Committee agreed that in principal for a limited number of places this could be an option going forward. The Hon Sec agreed to liaise with Phil Bibby.

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.

County Dinners – The Captain and Hon Sec attended events with Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.

Annual Dinner – The Holiday Inn has already been provisionally booked for Thursday 5th March 2020 and as The Captain has now confirmed his Guest Speaker as Ian Irving, the Hon Sec will contact the venue for further discussions.

Any other Business –

There was a brief discussion around the format of the Quaich, and it was agreed to continue as is and the question of a Trophy for the match against London Captions was discussed again. The Hon Sec of London is adamant that the gift given to us for our Jubilee should not be played for and is ours to keep. The Committee therefore decided to look at an internal event when it can be played for and consider supporting a new trophy for the annual fixture with London.

Retiring Captains Gift – The Hon Sec has found suitable tankards and apologised that they have not yet been delivered but will look to acquire them along with the new Crameri Trophies from Birkdale. The Committee re-iterated its earlier decision that the Society Captain can play in the Xmas Fayre at his own club if he so wishes.



Date of the next meeting..... Monday 20th January 2020 at APGC at 4.00pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.00 pm

Eric Diment Hon. Secretary 01/09/2019