



**SOCIETY OF HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING AT ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB
ON THURSDAY 9th AUGUST 2018**

PRESENT Jan Cembala Captain and in the Chair, Richard Blanchflower Vice-Captain, Bob Howell Hon Treasurer, Messrs: Hewitt, Rees, MacDonald and Eric Diment Hon Secretary

The Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Gary Rees and Brian MacDonald to their first meeting and with much sadness we acknowledged the passing of the IPC Robert Browning on the 22nd July

Apologies – Simon Tansley

Minutes – Those for the meeting held on Tuesday 17th April 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Membership & Subscriptions – the Hon Treasurer informed the committee that the membership currently stands at 509, 422 fully paid up, 84 Honorary and 3 new members. From the accounts we can also see that collections are ahead of the 2016/17 by £345.

Crameri Cup – Bob Howell the organiser, reported, that the competition had been progressing well and was into the last 16 stage, with only three matches to be played by 9th September. At present Whipsnade Park and Sandy Lodge have two teams remaining in the competition. There have been no contentious issues to date. Brian MacDonald raised the question of whether more information could be shown on the website in support of the Crameri Cup. Hon Sec agreed to speak with the webmaster Eric Wylie.

Retiring Captains Gift – The Hon Sec has found suitable tankards and will ensure they have the Hertfordshire Stag on them as well as the appropriate details. It was unanimously decided that one would be purchased in memory of Robert Browning and given to his widow, Cheryl.

Captains Report – The Captain, Jan Cembala produced a comprehensive report that was circulated prior to the meeting for all committee members. The minutes reflect a precis of that below

Jan described the events he had and attend as well as those within the Society that had taken place since April. The Inter Club Competition at Moor Park was well attended as usual with the eventual winners, Essendon just out performing Porters Park and Ashridge. The decision for the Society to enter its own team, albeit they were not eligible to win was a success and will be continued. The Captain and Hon Sec were then fortunate enough to represent the Society at Bedfordshire's Captains Day at Letchworth, almost a home fixture, followed by Suffolk's President's Day when they were fortunate to win the visitors prize and a fine day out at Beaconsfield with Buckinghamshire Captains. In between there were the society fixtures at South Herts for the Summer Meeting, President's Day at Berkhamsted hosted by our President Jim Smith and Vice Captains Day under the guidance of Richard Blanchflower at Brookmans Park, along with a world cup semi-final match! Matches away at Stowmarket against Suffolk saw the society defeated but a great away win in the Triangular Match against Essex and Cambridge at Gog Magog saw the society regain the trophy and hand the wooden spoon to Essex. The annual Club v Society match was held at Brickendon Grange with a narrow home win for the hosts.

Following the cremation of our dear friend Robert Browning a service was held at St Mary's Church in Ware to celebrate his life. The service was attended by many of Robert's friends including at least 20 members of the Society. Though a very sad occasion many of the stories from his life reflected the humor, determination and wonderful oratory skills he possessed. The I feel committee feel very privileged to have known him as a friend, fellow golfer and Captain of the Society of the Hertfordshire Captains

Treasurer's Report – The Hon Treasurer produced an up to date balance sheet that provided the committee with a clear overview of the current financial position and reported bank balances up to the period ended 31st July 2018, which showed a surplus of £2,889.

In relation to recent fixtures and matches the cost were broadly in line with expectations. Fixtures within the Society even after paying out for prizes make a small amount whilst matches are at best break even and often in deficit.

Hon. Secretaries Report

Fixtures- Hon Sec indicated a reasonable response to all events this year but the Summer Meeting at South Herts was disappointing with only 42 attendees. There followed a discussion around dates or whether we can change the format to allow members to pick their playing partners. At this point the decision was to continue as is. The committee acknowledges the importance of the liaison officer's role in increasing attendances and the Hon Sec will look to revitalise the approach for 2019. Disappointingly the matches rely on a relatively small pool of members although new faces are emerging, and the Hon Sec is looking to ensure all new members are selected going forward for at least one fixture to encourage participation. A debate with the Hon Sec from London is still ongoing regarding the abandoned fixture against the London Captains at North Middlesex is still ongoing, however the Hon Sec is not hopefully that a new date will be found. The Four Counties fixture is on track for next week following a practice round at Flackwell Heath. The fixture list for 2019 has now been completed subject to a few minor issues for away fixtures and a draft will be circulated to all committee members. Following the abandoned fixture at North Middlesex it has been agreed with London to move that fixture to the end of April 2019, in the hope of better weather.

Additional Fixtures – During the year the Hon Sec has been approached by several counties regarding the possibility of playing an additional match. This led to a debate as to whether it could be made into a mini tour for the society in future years. The Hon Sec agreed to discuss the possibilities further at the Annual Secretaries Meeting in September and report back.

Breadsall Priory- Away Weekend. Despite some reservations and last-minute changes to attendees this event passed off well although several problems had to be resolved at the time, including changes to tee times and meals being delayed. Discussions at the venue led to a decision to go elsewhere in 2019 and this has now been confirmed as Stoke by Nayland with 7 couples already paying their deposit.

Society Clothing – Ray Johnson continues to provide a first-rate service and has recently trialled water proof tops and a new light weight shirt which have been well received by the users. Clothing stocks remain at a sensible level and addition items will be purchased as required.

County Dinners – The Captain and Hon Sec are due to attend Overstone Golf Club on Friday 17th August at SNGC Presidents Day.

Annual Dinner – There was a discussion around how important it is to ensure that next year's Dinner, planned for 7th March is a success in terms of numbers, which means ensuring the catering and entertainment are first rate. The Holiday Inn have been tasked with providing a revamped menu and the cost of the entrainment is a concern in terms of being a limiting factor. The Hon Sec was tasked with contacting Martin Toal, from our Jubilee Dinner to see if he is available with his support, Sally on electric guitar.

AGM – The Hon Sec apologised to the committee as he felt that he had not conducted the AGM as well as he could but promised to learn and adapt for next year.

Any other Business - There was a discussion as to when and where future meetings should be held. There was a consensus that whenever possible a 1pm meet for golf followed by a meeting would be preferred.

Date of the next meeting..... Tuesday 15th January 2018 at 6.30 pm.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Eric Diment Hon. Secretary 14/08/2018