



**SOCIETY OF HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING AT ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB
ON TUESDAY 20th JULY 2021**

PRESENT Captain and in the Chair, Neil Hewitt, Vice Captain Simon Tansley, IPC Richard Blanchflower, Bob Howell
Hon Treasurer, Messrs: Rees, Macdonald, Barnes, Brookes, and Eric Diment Hon Secretary

Apologies – None

Minutes – Those for the meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020 were agreed as a true record after a slight amendment regarding those present and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- a) **Membership and Subscriptions** – Another comprehensive audit of the membership shows that the current membership stands at 463, with 87 of those being Honorary Members. Since last October we have lost a total of 39 members, who have either sadly passed away, moved away/lost contact, or resigned from the society. Recruitment has been sparse with several Captains rolling over for a second term and minimal golf being played. However, we have had 15 new members since the start of 2020.
- b) **Crameri Cup** – 44 clubs entered the competition this year. Radlett Park withdrew after converting to a pay and play course and withdrawing membership rights from their existing members. As of the 12th July, there remain four third-round matches to be played that week, which will leave us with the last 16 teams. Two clubs have both their teams in the last 16, Essendon and Dyrham Park but the draw for the round of 16 will ensure for these clubs their A team cannot meet their B team until the final.

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

Captains Report

The Captain, Neil Hewitt, summarised the year to date which started with the postponement of the Junior Fixture and The Inter Club L/Officers meeting due to coronavirus and the pandemic restrictions. The first fixture scheduled against London Captain was then cancelled on the day when the course was at Ealing was flooded but we are hopeful that this fixture may be rescheduled for later in the season.

The Triangular match against Essex and Cambridgeshire did take place at Romford which sadly saw Hertfordshire, being relieved of the Trophy and picking up the wooden spoon. However, it was the first event back and it was good to meet up with old friends. Our second event saw the away fixture against Suffolk being rearranged at short notice to become a home fixture at Harpenden Common because of the pandemic. A fine day was had, decent weather, good food and company with Herts winning the match 4-2.

Vice Captain's Day at Essendon was noted for the sad absence of the Vice Captain who had been pinged by the NHS app and was therefore isolating at home, another implication of the pandemic, but he was missed and by the heavy rain which tried to defeat us all before we played, again at the start and then halfway around the course. However, neither detracted from a good day although the field was disappointingly small.



Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer produced the accounts for the current financial year that ends in October with some appropriate comments against income and expenditure. He is currently forecasting a surplus for the year of between £400/500, which will mean our cash reserves by the end of October will be at the same level as last October at cira £20k. It remains our intention not 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 2021 and to provide wine for members' days that is not covered in the £55.

Hon. Secretaries Report

Fixtures 2021– The remaining fixtures as published for 2021 remain on track and the hope is that the pandemic will not impact anything else although the Hon Sec is concerned that we will see a reduced field for internal events and costings seem to be rising sharply.

Fixtures 2022 – There was discussion as to the merits of holding an event outside of Hertfordshire again to see if attendances would increase. The Hon Sec has approached Doug Chalmers to see if Woburn could be a suitable venue going forward. The work for the remaining fixtures remains on track.

Greatham Valley - Away Weekend. There was a discussion surrounding handicaps for this event and it was agreed to follow WHS rules for this season and discuss the merits of there being a maximum upper handicap limit after the event.

Additional Fixture – The new standalone fixture against Bucks was another casualty of the pandemic and has already been rescheduled for 2022, at Welwyn Garden City. The new additional of a mixed event against Norfolk to be played in the summer will be assessed after the day and if it is deemed a success, we will look to hold an annual event. Following a successful day when we played with the London Lady Captains at Brickendon it was discussed whether we could host a return fixture this year at their request but after looking at the fixture congestion it was deemed not to be feasible, so the Hon Sec agreed to infirm Lesley Carter, London Lady Captain of the decision

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, rainwear, and beany/bobble hat.

County Dinners – The Captain and Hon Sec have been invited to several events but again due to the pandemic there has already been several changes and alterations.

Annual Dinner – The Holiday Inn has now reopened as the Double Tree by Hilton, and it was agreed that the Hon Sec should discuss the merits of returning there in 2022. In addition, he agreed to contact the membership to understand whether there was an appetite within the society to attend such a large gathering. The Captain was tasked with deciding what form of entertainment he preferred and providing any options he had for his guest speaker.

Match Fees – As previously discussed these will remain largely unchanged again for this season although this will be the last year 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 and on that basis the Hon Sec agreed to write to John Saunders who is next in line.

Any other Business –

- As Captains Day has been moved for 2021 there was a discussion surrounding the AGM for this year. Two options seemed favourable, the first for it to be held at The Xmas Fayre and the second for it to be held as traditional has dictated in April, possibly at a Spring Meeting. The Hon Sec agreed to look at these options, numbers attending and report back at the next meeting.
- There was a brief discussion surrounding the current state of our trophies. Some require new plinths as there is no more room for engraving and one needs to be replaced following the pandemic.
- The Hon Sec agreed to approach Hadley Wood to try and arrange a traditional club fixture with the club to celebrate their centenary in 2022.



Date of the next meeting..... Wednesday 17th November 2021, 3pm at APGC.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7 pm

Eric Diment Hon. Secretary 28.07.21