



**MINUTES OF THE WHEATHILL GOLF CLUB MAIN COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Janette Stewart-Burnett	JSB	Club Chair
Gerry Morgan	GM	Club Captain
Jen Warmington	JW	Ladies Captain
Dave Gregory	DG	Club Treasurer
Alan Forscutt	AF	Men's Committee Representative
Andrew England	AE	Proprietor
Anne Scott	AS	Ladies Vice Captain
Ian Barrett	IB	Seniors Captain

**1. Introduction** JSB welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. Apologies**

Pete Dunford, Sean Woodward, Jim Williams, Jill Byrne.

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting 27th September 2023**

The minutes of the last Meeting were agreed, proposed by JW and seconded by GM

**4. Matters arising from previous meetings**

Matters arising were addressed either at the appropriate agenda items or as follows:

**5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence.**

PD: Reported:

Stroke Index

Having spoken to Par Signs last week, they were still waiting the information from Mark. I have given them all the information

Par Signs came to do the boards but brought the wrong size signs.

The stroke indexes have been updated with a couple more to be completed

**Action: Closed**

**Club Flag**

PD stated that a screen-printed flag on one side only was going to cost around £50.

To have emblems on both sides of the flag would involve two layers of material which is too heavy for the flagpole.

After a bit of discussion, it was agreed to purchase one flag which would only be flown on special occasions in order to increase its longevity

**Action: Closed**

### **Freeman Trophy**

Correspondence received from the Chairman of the 3 Counties League Matt Lambert. I would like to say what a resounding success the Freeman Trophy was held at Wheathill.

Everyone enjoyed the day immensely and I would like to extend our gratitude on behalf of the 3 Counties League Committee.

We appreciate everyone's assistance at Wheathill on the day the service, catering and hospitality was tremendous.

Many thanks again and we look forward to our visits next year in the League.

Matt Lambert

## **6. Handicap & Competitions Secretary's Report**

AF Reported:

All the expected competitions ran well, especially Air Ambulance Day, which raised over £3,500.00. Terrific work by Alan Forscutt and Pete Moxham.

Upcoming competitions are underway. WTPC and Blades. Fundraising day and the Christmas Cracker have been advertised.

The men's committee discussed various entry criteria and have also petitioned members of the committee, the majority wish to advocate staying with a minimum of 10 qualifiers and recommend this to the main committee. Each sign-up sheet will state 10 qualifiers are required.

Engraving is on schedule.

Withdrawal from competitions. The committee decided to add the following wording to all competition entry forms for 2024.

Payment for competitions is mandatory once the entry sheet has been removed from the board and the relevant draw taken place. Payment is therefore due unless you can find a substitute player. Geoff Gilbert has updated all the entry forms to this effect.

The committee will discuss a protocol for its management at the next meeting.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

DG reported:

The end of year finance report will be available in a couple of weeks.

Due to the increase of the membership the levy has increased by approximately 1k

## **8. Captain's Report**

GM reported:

The men's competition committee requires another person to join for the next season. Pete Wescott is on board to work with Alan Forscutt on competitions.

I have put up in the foyer details of the winners of this season for presentation night. Asking the winners to advise whether they will be attending, to enable numbers to be Ascertained for catering purposed.

In addition details of the upcoming AGM have been posted.

GM gave a report on the defibrillator course recently held. The pads were out of date. SW offered to check with his employers to see if they have spare ones.

**Action: SW**

It was suggested that Astro turf is tried on the second tee.

**Action: AE ongoing**

AE stated that the mats currently deployed on the course based upon experience are already in the best place.

A request was made for a card specific to winter temporary tee and green positions.

**Action: AE ongoing**

Benches:

GM has asked Justin to refurbish some of the wooden benches during the winter months, using funds available and expected from fundraising day.

Cost of an all-weather bench will be in the region of £400. DG bought two new ones for £75 and is going to find suitable feet supports for them.

Horsington Family have agreed to fund a Plastic bench to replace the rotten wooden one

**Action: Closed**

Jim Palmer has proposed to make wooden benches for £160. But this has now been superseded by DG's action.

**Action: Closed**

## **9. Management Report.**

AE Reported:

Renovations went well, but unfortunately we weren't able to top dress before the rain. This is the risk of leaving so late in the autumn. We shall vertidraw and top dress

when conditions allow. This maybe in the spring or early summer. We are gradually moving ropes and loops out. Along with bringing mats and astro tees into play. Winter Mode! Winter wheels are encourage but not compulsory until January and February. General trimming continues whenever possible according to ground conditions.

We have a number of Carveries planned in the build up to Christmas. Be sure to support the club and book your parties in.

## **10. Ladies Section Report**

JW Reported:

26 ladies took part in My Devilish Lady Captain's Day which everyone seemed to enjoy and got us all thinking about the best way to use our double points and our "Naughty Shots". Personally I failed miserably but thoroughly enjoyed the day, anyway. Once again Vicky and her team provided us with a lovely meal and then we all rushed off to see the end of the Ryder Cup! Lynn O'Neill added to her trophy collection by winning the day.

Then Lynn added another by winning the Pick'n'Mix with her husband Sean. The O'Neill clan will definitely need to sit near the front at Presentation Night as they have all had a very good season.

Our friendly match at home to Weymouth was a lovely day with all our visitors enjoying the Course and the hospitality.

I'm pleased to say that Gin and I have qualified to represent the Club in the Daily Mail Foursomes once again next season, although it was a very tight finish with us having to rely on countback to make it through.

We held another Women on Par sessions, for our newer ladies on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October and have another coming up, in November, when we will concentrate on rules, etiquette and the various golfing Apps available. These events, which have been led by Sylvia Bates & Martin Liley, have proved very popular are definitely helping to build the confidence of our newer ladies and will hopefully help them integrate into the section. We have applied to Somerset Ladies for funding and we are awaiting confirmation of a good sized grant to help expand the program next year. One of the criteria, from County, is that the Golf Club itself match any funds provided. We are extremely grateful to Andrew for agreeing to do this and for his enthusiasm for helping to increase the numbers in the Ladies Section.

Due to personal reasons Karen Forward has stood down as 2024 Ladies VC. Fiona Cruse has kindly stepped up for the position.

## **11. Seniors Section Report.**

IB Reported:

Kelvin Dagger is taking over from Dave Eynon as handicap secretary and would like to thank Dave for all his hard work and dedication to the role over the past year.

Andy McDougall will remain as senior's fixture secretary and will also remain as a committee member. But, will resign as the senior's committee secretary. The vacancy for this post has not yet been taken up.

I will be replacing the ball washer on the 7<sup>th</sup> tee soon with a refurbished one supplied by Andrew when time and energy permits. I'm currently renovating the corroded washer which passed away on the same tee and will give us another spare.

We played our last seniors fixture at Rushmore recently and after moving trees on a blocked road to get to the club we ended up winning 7 of the fixtures, losing 5 and halving 3. So not to bad a record.

## **12. Junior Section Report**

JB Reported:

Firstly, congratulations to Elizabeth England who is to be our 2024 Junior Captain. Oli Hopkins, Elizabeth and myself met to plan a Junior strategy for the coming winter months with the aim of uniting our Junior members so that they feel more included and able to interact more regularly with other juniors. More information to follow as This rolls out.

Oli Hopkins has been selected to play for the full County Squad for the coming Season. Lucy Sleeth-Stevens has also been included in the Girls County Development Programme and recently played in a County Texas Scramble at Burnham and Berrow.

Membership numbers are stable around the mid 40's which is pleasing and bodes well for the coming season.

The Club will be hosting the Somerset Junior League AGM on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

## **13. AOB**

### **Clock**

A digital mains powered clock has been purchased, it is to be repositioned and connected electrically

### **Action Closed**

### **Entering competitions**

Consideration be given to booking and paying for competitions via either ClubV1 or BRS.

**Action: AE Ongoing**

### **Reporting**

JSB explained reports from each section should be simple and not too detailed covering any news which will be of interest to the main committee.

## **Action All**

### **Qualifiers**

The subject of qualifiers was again raised as there was a difference of opinion within the committee.

This topic will be added to the next agenda and a decision must be agreed, is it 5 or is 10?

A full discussion was had at this meeting. Endeavouring to cover all the individual committees concerns. The driving factor for a conclusion was the reduction in revenue due to the introduction of general play cards. Entries in medals and stablefords have reduced considerably. Even with the introduction of weekly medals and stablefords and order of merit competitions.

Based on this driving factor. A vote took place. The result being for silverware a requirement of 10 qualifying cards are required over a 12 month rolling period 5 of these cards must be either medals or stablefords.

This decision will need to be promoted heavily in the New Year as the requirements need to be in place for the start of the 2024/2025 season being September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

### **Action: All**

The meeting finished at 1530

The next meeting will be held on January 28th commencing at 1 pm in the clubhouse.

Signed  
2024

J Stewart-Burnett

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January

Chair