

Minutes of meeting held on 23rd April 2025

Present: David Wright, Bob Ward, Jeff Chilver, Ron Stovell, Mike Donovan, Steve Smith, and Ian Smith.

Apologies for Absence: Neil Farmer, Colin Coates.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Agreed

Matters Arising: None

Captain's Report: It's good to see the grass starting to grow on the course and us also going back on to the proper tees. Also the opening of the new 13th Tee. We have had two friendly matches, one against Ballards Gore which we drew and the second against Maldon which we won 5 and a half 2 and a half. We played Chigwell Golf Club away in the John Day but we unfortunately we lost. We were treated very well by Chigwell and I would like to thank Mike Donovan for organising the day as the non-playing captain

Treasurer's Report: A quiet month from an accounting point of view. There were three competitions in the month giving fees of £546 and the only expenditure was for prizes and golf balls. This resulted in a surplus for the month of £276.

At the end of March the available cash resources were a very healthy £2,516.

I have received to date initial payments from the following new members:
E. McLatchie, A. Thomson and J. Shilling

General Secretary's Report: In all we now have had five new members join the section, two in the last day or two and since the Treasurer's report. Ed McLatchie, Alex Thomson, John Shilling as mentioned above and subsequently Dominic Finn and John Watson. We have also had a few members not renew for various reasons.

Competition Secretary's Report: A number of people, approximately five, are persistently putting their names forward after the Sunday deadline. The deadline was introduced to preserve the integrity of the random draw. Ron will be dealing with this but will allow those who have genuine reasons to apply late to play where possible. He again asks that he be contacted by text.

Update on members' health: Bob has been in contact with Chris Taylor, Nick Sizer, Bob Nice, Terry Shuttleworth and John Bloomfield.

If anyone knows of someone unwell or who would appreciate a call please advise him on 07983 136159 or sue.rob57@gmail.com

Any Other Business.

Trevor Macdonald presented an idea to the Committee involving the creation of an Associate Membership of the section for those no longer playing. He pointed out that there is a significant number of past vets no longer able to play competitive golf but socially active and missing the camaraderie of membership.

He suggested the committee organise a regular Wednesday meeting at say 11.00 to 11.30am in order that Associate Membership could informally get together at Forrester Park for coffee and a chat. He suggested that there be a one off joining fee of £5 for lifetime membership of this club in order to give it gravitas and to encourage commitment. Not playing in competitions they wouldn't have voting rights but their opinions would always be listened to and respected.

A discussion ensued and the Committee felt this was a particularly good idea, and reflected the inclusive ethos aimed for by the section and the club. It was agreed to take it forward. Ian and Jeff have been tasked with forming a list of past members and contacting them by email. It was agreed the membership fee would help formalise the group, as outlined by Trevor, and the feeling of the Committee was that this should and would be returned to the group in some way, yet to be decided.

The Charity Fun Day. Those involved reported that things were progressing well but that sponsors for certain prizes were still needed. The appropriate form is on the notice board, please consider sponsoring a hole or prize.

Slow Play Update. The details of six competitions had been analysed by the Committee using a spreadsheet circulated by Jeff. It was felt that the act of adding times to our scorecards had made us more aware of the speed of play and we will continue to monitor.

New website. A sample website, kindly constructed by Paul Johnson's son, was discussed at length with the discussion largely about balancing the extent of change needed and the users' acceptance of such change. Jeff agreed to investigate further.

Committee roles. Steve Smith still needs a Vice-Captain. With a number of people stepping down in the autumn, having completed a decade or so of duty each, replacements will be needed and it was felt they should be from the younger members of the section. Anyone who would like to volunteer some time would be welcome. Tasks would be tailored to the time you are able to commit.

Convenors and Organizers. Mike and Ian agreed to act as convenors for two forthcoming away matches and David volunteered to organise, as well as Captain, the Maldon away match.

DONM: 23rd May 2025