

Minutes of the Seniors Committee Meeting held at 1pm on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 in the Forest Inn

1. **Present:** Ian Newman (IN) Captain, Larry Austin (LA) Vice Captain, Keith Broom (KB) Secretary/Treasurer, Allan Bentley (AB), Graham Chadwick (GC), Steve Kitney (SK) Committee Members
2. **Apologies for Absence:** None
3. **New committee:** The Captain thanked all present for attending and welcomed Steve Kitney to the committee, who was elected post AGM.
4. **Matters Arising:** The under-mentioned questions were raised by members at the AGM held on 13th November and brought to this meeting for ratification by the new committee. After discussion the following decisions were made.
Question: Will the £5.00 fee previously charged for being a member of the old seniors section be re-introduced by the new committee?
Decision: No. *The committee's view is that there should be no barriers to engagement, enjoyment or participation of members by introducing a fee for joining the Seniors section.*
Question: Will the custom of paying £1.00 to the Captain's charity on the 18th hole for landing your ball in the stream in front of the green be re-instated?
Decision: No. *The committee's view is that a donation to charity should be voluntary, and while, in the past, this was a way of raising money for the Captain's charity, it should not be compulsory.*
Question: Will the committee continue the custom of making memorial donations to the families of deceased members of the section?
Decision: Not as a committee. *The committee's view is that a more appropriate way to remember a past member is to have a minute silence at the start of the AGM each year so the whole section can pay their respect.*
Question: Will there be a register of member's emails and phone numbers for contact purposes?
Decision: No. *Permission is required under GDPR to hold the contact details of members'. While members' contact details are held by the main club this information is not available to the Seniors section. However, see item 11 below.*
5. **Inter-Club Matches:** The Captain outlined the fixtures which had been agreed with the other clubs. It was noted that the Forest Inn will provide a post-match light meal, free of charge, consisting of sandwiches, sausage roll and chips, for all home matches.
6. **Monday Competitions:** It was noted at the AGM that the Monday competition remained open all day for over 55's to enter. Although, for convenience, a booking system is available for morning play, it is possible to play later in the day with fellow members. This was thought to be reasonable as it took account of those members who could not play earlier in the day. Additionally, a later cut-off time for entry into the Monday competitions was discussed. The feeling was that if the booking in period was extended (say to the Wednesday prior to the competition) the greater the opportunity for members to enter the competition. **Action: IN** would speak to club secretary John Mitchell.
7. **Fun Competitions:** The Captain mentioned that currently 'Fun competitions' are held once a month, however, only the formats of some competitions are acceptable to the computer system. i.e. Texas Scramble and Bowmaker. Additionally, the fun competitions are less popular over the Winter months, when the weather is inclement. The Captain suggested that in order to provide variation in the type of fun competitions played the results of these types of competitions would need to be produced manually, during the Summer months only. i.e. April to October. During the Winter months of November to March an additional 'Medal' competition could be substituted instead of a 'fun competition' each month. This suggestion was well received. **Action: GC** said he would be willing to produce the results of 'fun competitions' during the Summer months, when required.
8. **Wednesday Roll-ups:** The committee felt that an agreed format for the Seniors Wednesday roll-ups was needed, and, once agreed, should be communicated to members. Items discussed and agreed were:
Start times: 7.30 am in Summer, 8.00 am in Winter.
Meeting time: 15 minutes prior to start time, to allow for the random draw for 3 ball playing partners to be made.
Entry fee: £2.00 for those wishing to participate in the monetary rewards, and free for those playing for fun.
Prizes: A player with the most stableford points overall wins 50% of the pot, and players winning the front and back nine holes win 25% of the pot each.
Handicap adjustment: A player winning over the whole 18 holes will suffer a deduction of two strokes for the next two competitions. A player winning either the front or back nine holes will suffer a deduction of one stroke for the next competition.
Action: LA to incorporate in a communication newsletter to members.
KB to enquire whether it is possible to update the Seniors section page on the main golf club website to include current news regarding the activities of the section.
9. **Summer Knock-out Cups:** It was agreed that a £2.00 entry fee be requested for entry into the Summer Singles and Pairs knock-out cups. The money raised will be prize money for the winners.
10. **Winter Spurr Mats:** It was agreed to remind members that Winter Spurr mats can be used on the fairway, in the rough and even on the tee, **but not** in the bunkers.
11. **Members e-mail addresses:** It was agreed that when registering to play in an Inter-Club match or the Summer Knock-out competitions a player should give consent to providing their email address and/or phone number, for communication purposes.
12. **New Trophy:** The late ex-Captain John Stead has donated a trophy to the section. After discussion it was agreed that it be presented on Captain's Day for the best scratch or net score on the day.

Close of meeting: Meeting closed at 2.20pm