

Minutes of the Birchwood Park Golf Club Committee Meeting 145
Wednesday 13th April 2004

Present:

Mr Peter Holland (Chairman)

Mr Ian Keith (Secretary)

Mrs Barbara Fielder (Assistant Secretary)

Mr Terry Skeggs (Treasurer)

Mr John Russell

Mr Scott Morley

Mr Lee Venus (Captain)

Mrs Diane Brannon (Lady Captain)

Mr Chris Chilmaid (Seniors Captain)

Mr Steve Deacon (Competitions)

Mr John Walters (Handicap Secretary)

Meeting Opened at 7.45pm

Mr Holland opened the meeting and welcomed John Russell to the committee

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| 1 | APOLOGIES: Mr Dave Grey (Vice Captain) and Mrs Jan West (Lady Vice Captain) | ACTION |
| 2 | Minutes of Previous Meeting No.144 of 10th March 2004
Mr Skeggs and Mr Chilmaid proposed the minutes as correct. | |
| 3 | Matters Arising from Meeting 144 | |
| 3.1 | 3.1 – Who’s Who Board – Mr Morley said he would get it done as soon as he can - Ongoing | Mr Morley |
| 3.2 | 3.2 - Juniors Tournament – Mr Morley said there has been a lot of interest from Birchwood and other clubs and that Cranfield is gearing up for a major tournament – Date TBA - Ongoing | Mr Morley |
| 3.3 | 3.3 – Slow Play – Discussed again – Mr Morley said he has told the Rangers they have got the right to ask people to speed up but that he felt it was a joint responsibility. Mr Holland said that it was generally felt that play had slightly speeded up. | |
| 3.4 | 3.4 – Team Shirts – Actioned | |
| 3.5 | 3.9 - Decisions of the Rules of Golf – Actioned | |
| 3.6 | 3.10 - Bunkers – Mr Morley said there has been some improvement, but the committee reported that there is still lining showing in some of the bunkers. - Ongoing | Mr Morley |
| 3.7 | 3.12 – New Members Register – Mr Morley said he has arranged for pages to be added to the contact book behind reception. Mr Deacon asked if he could be notified of any new members immediately as there has been trouble recently with 2 new members who were under age, but had paid an adult joining fee, and signed up for the competitions which goes against the Club’s Competition Rules and Regulations. Mr Holland said we are not adverse to the juniors joining the club but we want it done properly. Mr Deacon reminded Mr Morley that if anyone joins from another club that they need to bring a copy of their handicap certificate with them and give it to either Steve Deacon or John Walters. | Mr Morley |
| 3.8 | 3.13 – Past Captains Photo’s – Mr Morley said he had considered the proposal to move some of the past captains photo’s to the staircase, but that they would have to be permanent fixings and he could not have that many fixed to the wall. The deadline for the refurbishment of the Bar is the 30 th April 04, and then the photo’s would have to come down and the overflow photo’s would not be allowed to be put back up on the adjoining wall. Mrs Fielder suggested down sizing the photo’s by half to get more on allowed area. It was pointed out to Mr Morley that this is a golf club and it would be better to take down some of the abstract pictures on the wall and keep the photos and honour boards. Mr Holland asked Mr Morley if the Centre Management was against recognising the history of the club and that he would be writing to Burhill on the matter to voice the concerns of the members. - Ongoing | Mr Holland |
| 3.9 | 3.14 – Watson Trophy 4th April 04 – Lee Venus came 6 th and congratulations were expressed by all of the committee. | |
| 3.10 | 6.2 - Concessionary Green Fees – Mr Skeggs reported that the impact to cover all the concessionary green fees would be £1500. Mr Chilmaid asked if it would cover the Invicta | |

League and was told that the seniors could use the value of their concessionary fees within their own arrangements (see Finances 6.2).

- 3.11** 6.3 – Computer Ink Cartridges - Actioned
- 3.12** 8.2 – Tee Boxes – Actioned
- 3.13** 8.3 – Seed Boxes – Mr Morley said he would not be implementing this idea because they obstruct the machinery and are open to vandalism and the green staff would have to adjust the dressing. The committee pointed out to Mr Morley that several of the Tee-boxes have started to dip quite badly in places. Mr Morley
- 3.14** 8.4 – Team Lists for Notice Board – Actioned.
- 3.15** 8.7 – 4th Hole – Mr Morley reported that OOB posts are now in place, and that this hole is now ready to go back into play and that GUR is no longer required. Mrs Fielder pointed out that there are still some Blue GUR posts on the old infill site and Mr Holland confirmed this. Mr Morley said he would look into it. Mr Morley
- 3.16** 8.9 – 15th Hole – Actioned
- 3.17** 8.10 – 2nd Hole – Some Stakes need replacing at the front of the plantation, over the path, between the 2nd and 3rd Hole. Mr Morley said he would have a look at it. Mr Morley
- 3.18** 8.11 – Burhill Interclub Quadrangular – 5th September – Mr Morley said he has sent invitations to the other Burhill Clubs but had so far had no response. Mr Holland to speak to Caroline regarding a social event if clubs stay overnight. Mr Holland asked Mr Morley if he was happy for all 7 clubs to bring 4 guests, Mr Morley replied ‘Yes’ but that he thought only 5 clubs would actually take part, Mr Holland replied “in which case we could have 18 from each club” and asked Mr Morley if Birchwood could accommodate an extra hours tee times to which Mr Morley replied ‘Yes’. Mr Morley/
Mr Holland
- 4** **CORRESPONDENCE**
- 4.1** Mr Keith said that the seniors had enquired about a Kent competition entry form, which had not been received. Mr Deacon said all the Kent Competitions are in the Perspex folder.
- 4.2** Mr Holland said he had received a memo from Mr Morley to say that Sam is the liaison between the Birchwood Centre Management and the Members Committee with regard to the Burhill Interclub Challenge.
- 4.3** Membership for 7-day membership is now full.
- 4.4** Letter from Peter Devaux requesting dispensation from the eligibility rules for the Knockout competition, as he has been unable to qualify because of having a hip operation. The committee gave their consent. Mr Holland
- 4.5** NAGPC competition information, Peter Holland said he has got this information and will pass it on to Steve Deacon.
- 5** **COMPETITIONS**
- 5.1** Men’s
Mail on Sunday – The second round was a home game on the 20th March against Bexleyheath. Birchwood won 4-0
Lee Venus won his match in the IZZU competition played at Birchwood.
- 5.2** Ladies
Pearson Trophy – Birchwood is through to the next round.
The Tappin Trophy was an away match at North Forland and Birchwood lost.
Ann Bridges won her match at Chislehurst G.C. in the Club Champions Competition.
Jan West won her match at Chislehurst in the Order of Merit Competition.

- 5.3** Seniors
The Invicta League – Upchurch - Birchwood lost 3-0
The Invicta League – Beckenham – Birchwood drew 1 ½ - 1 ½
Friendly v Fawkham Valley – Birchwood won 4 ½ - 1 ½
- 5.4** Mixed
Captains Cup – Gill Holland, Hilary Faldon, Mike Smith & Mike Anscombe won at home to Royal Cinque Ports.
- 6** **FINANCES**
- 6.1** Mr Skeggs gave everyone a copy of the monthly balance sheet. This shows a deficit because of the purchase of the Team Shirts.
- 6.2** Nominated concession fee’s to be financed from the club funds. Mr Skeggs proposed and Mr Venus seconded it. A vote was taken and this was unanimous in its agreement. All 3 groups can use their concessions for the County and National competitions specified below:
Men’s Club:- Pilgrims League, North Kent and Yeoman’s Leagues, Whitbread League, Mail on Sunday Competition.
Ladies Section: - Pearsons Trophy, Tappin Trophy.
Seniors Section:- Invicta League.
It was agreed that where better value could be obtained i.e. in the case of the seniors using mid-week afternoon rates for their Invicta matches, the “value” of the concession could be used by the section in another non-specified competition, but the overall benefit to the sections from Club finances would be based on the annual quota as advised by Birchwood Park Management. The surplus of concessionary green fees will be used as in the past, where competition fees will cover the concessionary rate.
- 6.3** New Computer – A discussion took place on whether to go ahead with purchasing a new computer. Mr Skeggs was asked to come back with a proposal at the next meeting. Mr Skeggs
- 7** **SOCIAL**
Please look on Main Board in Reception for forthcoming events.
- 8** **Any Other Business**
- 8.1** Frost Holes had been left on some of the greens. Mr Morley said he would look into it. Mr Morley
- 8.2** Societies – Mr Skeggs said he had noticed some societies were driving round the course in buggies with beer on board. Mr Morley said this was not allowed.
- 8.3** Mr Skeggs asked why we are not receiving points at the Bar anymore. Mr Morley said this was brought in when the new tills were installed, and that only 50% of members were using their points, and that since stopping this, it had speeded up service at the Bar, however members would still get the points at Reception. Mr Holland pointed out that members get very little extra for their membership and that it would be a good gesture to offer club members a discount card. Mr Morley said this would not happen. Mr Morley was then asked why are the prices more expensive upstairs and was told it is because it is a function suite, but that when we have large functions if he is given notice he can get good wine cheaper for the members. However it is not just the wine, the beer is also more expensive than downstairs.
- 8.4** All Winners Day – Mrs Brannon asked if in future this could be arranged so that it does not fall at Easter as it affected the number who could play. Mr Holland said it was the same for the Masters Trophy. Mr Deacon said he would try to ensure it did not happen again but the tradition was that we held our competition on the same weekend as the Masters in Augusta.
- 8.5** Captains Photo’s – Mr Russell brought the matter up again and said we should try to sort this matter out sensibly in-house and suggested that Mr Morley and Mr Holland got together to sort out a solution. Mr Morley said he was open to suggestions and thought Mrs Fielders idea was a good one and he would help pay for the cost for this to be done. However he then suggested down sizing them to a quarter and everyone agreed this would be too small as you would hardly be able to see them. Mr Holland said this would still only be a short term

solution and that we need to look at the long term, and that the biggest problem is not so much about putting the photo's up but the attitude that we are losing the aspect of this as a golf club.

- 8.6 It has been brought to Managements attention that some one is bringing in cheaper tobacco and selling it in the club and this is not allowed.
- 8.7 It was also noticed that on two occasions the Ladies were making hot drinks in the changing room and this is not allowed for Health & Safety reasons.
- 8.9 On the 28th March, Mr Rob Holland noticed some members chipping onto the 9th green to practise their putting, and the committee was asked to put a stop to this if they notice it happening.
- 8.10 The Range Office – Is subject to Planning and Fire Regulations and it is being re-done. The desk and shelves the committee currently use will be moved forward and new sockets put in. At the moment there is no timetable for this work. Mr Morley said he is also looking into making it a golf office where certain personnel structure changes would mean that a member of the team would be using that office and would work alongside Cranfield Golf Academy.
- 8.11 Course Improvement Plan – ¾ of the points have been Actioned or implemented. Mr Morley said he would update the committee rather than produce a document. The 16th hole was re-measured, as it was wrong, it was a group project. The White Block is the right yardage. Mr Morley was asked if he could outline some of the projects and replied, Bunkers have been worked on and will continue to be so, OOB Posts have been put in place, and Tee Boxes and Greens have been improved and the water hazards cleaned up. The plan changes all the time and is influenced by group course decisions, but improvements are continuing. Mr Morley said the course is looking fantastic and the new machinery and the employment of new grounds men has helped as well. - Ongoing
- 8.12 Ladies Showers – Mrs Fielder asked if it would be possible to have new Shower Heads as the water comes out in a trickle, there was also complaints that the floor is dirty. Mr Morley said the heads are de-scaled on a regular basis and that the men's showers have had new heads and that in due course the ladies showers will have new heads.
- 8.13 All Winners Meal – The ladies requested a Carvery but did not get it and the meal was very bad. Mr Morley said he knew about it and had recommended a 50% reduction on the invoice. Mr Venus said there was also a problem with the meal he ordered for the Masters Day, he ordered Roast Beef and they were given some sort of casserole. Mr Holland said there was also a problem with the serving staff on the Masters Day, the All Winners Day and the Mixed Fun Competition on Easter Monday, with only one member of staff serving everybody. Mr Morley said this was due to sickness among the staff.
- 8.14 Mr Keith asked about the pile of Kent Union Books in the tray behind reception. It was suggested putting them out on the competition desk for people to pick up.
- 8.15 Mr Holland asked about the coffee machine being out of order and the staff charging £1 for a cup of instant coffee. Mr Morley said the machine has been mended and is back in use.
- 8.16 Masters Day – Mr Holland said it has always been a tradition that the Captain buys bottles of drink as prizes for the nearest the pins and that when they are presented they are passed round to everyone but that this year the bottles had been confiscated. Mr Morley said he does not mind this happening but in future would like to be informed in advance.
- 8.17 Team Shirts – If any member wants a Team Shirt they must apply either to Steve Deacon or Peter Holland, as they are only available from them.
The meeting closed at 10 pm
Date of next meeting – Monday 24th May 2004

Mr Morley

(Any member wishing an issue to be raised at the next meeting should refer it to the Secretary (ikeith@btopenworld.com) at least 3 days in advance

