

# COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## REPORT



Meeting Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 7.00 pm.

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### In Attendance

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Paul Davis – Captain (PD) // Peter Furnival – President / David Dudley (DD) – Vice Captain / John Burnett (JB) Handicap Secretary / Rob Ashfield (RA) / Terry German (TG) – Treasurer / Craig Andrews (CA) / Neil Beech (NB) / Alan Ratcliffe (AR) Club Secretary / Jason Dudley (JD) – Outgoing Captain / Matt Highway (MH) / Nick Hirst (NH) / S Thornton (ST) – Seniors Captain

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### Apologies

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None

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### Minutes of last meeting

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These were accepted.

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### Correspondence

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Walsall council – PD met with Colin Manning; the council will replace / repair chain link fencing whilst Calderfields will secure their side using hawthorn bushes.

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### Suggestion Box

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- 1) For drawn comps can the slowest players be the last group out to help speed up play, committee agreed this was not feasible due to the random draw and it was up to all the players in a group to keep the slower players moving.

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### Matters Arising

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Matters still outstanding; - all actions from previous meeting closed out.

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### Captains Report

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During the months of September and October we held 4 medal competitions, 3 Stableford competitions and 4 major competitions.

Both the Medal and the Stableford competitions were well represented so congratulations to all the winners of those.

Our 1st major was our presidents putter with a very impressive 53 entries, congratulations to Alan Ratcliffe winning the day with 44 points.

The next major was the SPGC Shield with 44 entries spread, congratulations to Neil Reed winning the day with 39 points.

The next major was the Bentley cup 20 pairs entered. Congratulations to Lee Coney and Dave Dudley winning the day with a nett score of 66.

The next major was the E Brown 4-man team with 8 teams of 4 players entering the competition.

Congratulations to Neil Custer, Bill Rhodes, Dave Russell and Mark Fitzsimmons winning the day with a score of 200.

With one last thing from me is that it concerns me that players guests and visitors are not abiding to our clubs' rules.

I would like to ask all our members to police our course when playing, if you see anyone doing wrong out there then please politely speak to them or report it to our professional staff.

I think that we have built a good base in readiness for next year around the whole course which we don't need spoiling.

Paul Davis

Club Captain.

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## Income & Expenditure report

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Below are the incomings and outgoing for Sept & Oct

### Outgoing

£36 - Engraving of trophy for Alliance team

£1965 - Vouchers collected

£150 – Vouchers

### Incomings

£2200

Terry German

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## Handicap / Competitions report.

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### Competitions.

All the major competitions for the summer season have been played.

The Snape Cup has closed, and the draw will be done tomorrow, and the first round posted later this week with the confirmed play by dates.

I have started putting next year's fixtures together and should have copies ready for circulation early December,

I need dates from Dave for his competitions, Captains Cup, Captains Breakfast. I will speak to the new vice-captain about the invitation day once he has been announced.

I've also been considering introducing a **mid-year review** next year to help us stay on top of any adjustments and ensure fairness throughout the season.

With positive feedback with drawn Texas Scramble competitions, I propose we carry this through to all major team competitions from next year. *Committee agreed and suggested a trial for a pairs comp in the new year to be carried out.*

The introduction of the BRS app for signing into major competitions has been a great success this year. However, we did experience a minor issue with collecting entrance fees within the required time frame. I will be working closely with the club to address and resolve this.

### Women's Competitions.

Are we going to let the Women join in the monthly and midweek competitions in 2026, agreed this could carry on but not for Major / Board competitions as they have their own competitions.

### Fairway Mats Trial – Feedback and Recommendations

The fairway mats trial took place on **Sunday, 2nd November**, and the feedback from members has been **mixed**. Around **80% of those who used the shop fairway mats** felt they were unsatisfactory, and a small percentage indicated they would prefer not to play if mats were made compulsory.

Several members also questioned **why the trial was held during a major competition**, and I explained that this was a **unanimous committee decision**.

It was agreed that the management will be approached on a plan of action to introduce mats.

### End of Season Bash.

The End of Season Bash was a great success; I have had nothing but positive feedback from those who attended. I feel let down by the lack of members not supporting, as this was an evening put on for **THE MEMBERS with free entertainment free drink for them and their guest**.

I feel this level of generosity and club spirit is rare elsewhere and should be better supported by members in future.

### Request to committee:

A member has asked if he can participate in the Snape Cup as he only has 1 qualifying competition but has a record of all his rounds on WHS. *committee unanimously agreed this was not possible as the rules were very clear.*

John Burnett

Handicap secretary.

*Handicap sub-committee to assist John will be Alan Ratcliffe, Rob Ashfield and Nick Hirst.*

After the extreme dry and heat of the summer it's great that we finally have some moisture in the ground and green colour back in the course. The new size of the greens is now in place and the new fringe surrounds should hopefully be bedded in and become unnoticeable by next season. The fringes are also bare in areas but with the new lines system in place hopefully players will be keeping their trolleys well away from these areas.

Wayne is happy to report that all 18 greens now have working sprinklers on after a few weeks of digging and repairs. The 9th and 18th greens have improved dramatically in a short space of time because of the benefits of these active sprinklers. Winter rules have come into play so this should help to aid players who've been unfortunate in landing on the bare ground on the fringes.

The autumn leaf falls around the course has occurred as usual and on days where it's possible they are being blown into areas of little use or collected if they are dry enough to be so.

In the last 2 months the greens have been spiked, fertilised and stripped of thatch on two occasions so there should now be visible improvement and will aid long term progress.

An incident occurred in early October where during the green's maintenance work a group of players hit balls directly into the 9th green where the greens team were working and gave the staff abuse. There was no flag on the green or hole cut so no excuse can be made for this behaviour. This needs to be stopped and if its visitors doing this they should be banned and if it's members a warning issued and if a 2nd incident happens they should be suspended or excluded from the club. Green staff do their best for us and don't deserve these actions.

The bunkers have seen improvements in the last couple of months due to increased taking and weeding going on.

Wayne has asked that players keep on top of pitch mark repairs due to the softness of the greens now. Hopefully a lot of these ongoing works will give us an excellent course next season for us to all enjoy.

*Matt Highway – Committee Leader, David Dudley and Craig Andrews*

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## A.O.B.

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### **Arranged in subject sections.**

#### **Handicap / Competition questions**

NB – a couple of members have suggested a “live” draw for the Snape Cup, *the committee thought this was a good idea and after discussions agreed to hold on the following Sunday provided John could arrange in time. We can review how this went and look to implement for summer KO's next year.*

TG – For Pairs comps can a list of members without a partner who wish to take part be drawn up and pairs allocated from this list. *Committee discussed and John would look if an alternates list could be added to Master scoreboard, also there is now a members WhatsApp group which has helped to partner people up and can be very effective.*

ST – He is liaising with JB on next year's Seniors fixtures and noted that the mid-week comps will move to a Tuesday and Wednesday to avoid clashes and hopefully get Seniors entering them on Tuesday which is traditionally a popular day for them.

#### **General – to be brought up at next Management Meeting by President / Captain and reported back to committee.**

PF – Thanked all who were involved in the end of season bash which was a success.

MH – standard of dress for visitors needs looking at as more incidents of the wearing of football shirts. Jeans and lack of equipment is being seen.

JB – Requested all sections at the AGM to compliment the excellent work on the course by the Greens staff.

Members are still using the bridge on the 8<sup>th</sup> to cross over, needs blocking off better. *JD said he would investigate this and improve the blocking of the bridge.*

ST – Confirmed the Seniors AGM will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

RA – Can we create a local rule for free relief from Deer hoof marks and add to the back of score cards

#### **Course – to be actioned by Greens and reported back to committee.**

DD – 15<sup>th</sup> Green, on the RH side as you walk away there is a collapsed drain cover, this needs fixing as its an H&S issue for people and buggies. *JD will talk with Wayne on ways to fix.*

PF – 16<sup>th</sup> Pool needs tidying around edges, ongoing issue.

CA – Areas of pathways getting very muddy / untidy (1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> over bridge, 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>).

*Note – all committee members noted the excellent work carried out by Wayne and his staff and how well the course and greens looked / played.*

### **Updates /News.**

JD - Can the committee obtain a crate of beer to present to the Greens staff as an appreciation for the excellent work carried out on the course. *Committee agreed to this and would also write an appreciation letter to the Wayne and his staff.*

PD – review notes from management meetings

- New flags will be added next year; there will also only be one colour and hopefully will be sponsored.
- Side gate to be completed with a new lock.
- Internal door to the men's locker room will have a new mechanical lock added as the existing electronic one no longer works correctly.
- Range and nets to be refurbished.
- Paths around the course to be refurbished.
- A stump grinder will be loaned for a week.
- New competition for new members will be called the Keenan Cup in recognition of the service to the club by former Club Captain and long serving President Tom Keenan. A cup has been allocated for this and a name plaque to be added.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Next meeting

# January 5<sup>th</sup> 2026. – 7.00pm