

# **Minutes of Forest Pines Golf Club AGM 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

## **Present:**

Steve Topham, Pep Deluca, June Marshall, Jeff Greenwood, Sue Over, John Clark, Kay Clark, Michael Hill, Karl Dixon, Pete Reeves, Kate Reeves, Simon Parrott, Jacqui Edwards, Rick Maxfield, John Carolan, Paul Marris, Jenny Swain, Colin McCrobbie, Keith Briggs, Helen Scuton, Mark Clayton, Andrew Canwell, Chinny Mann, Jean Cook, Ceinwen Chaplin, David Elliot, Adrian Hewes, Colin Pogson, Kieran Repton, Howard Pirie, Roger Danby, Lynne Sutton, Keith Sutton, Jean Love

Matt Peacock, Adam Webb

## **Apologies:**

Malcolm Yates, Sam Yates, Nick Over, Richard Over, Tony Link, Debbie Link, Jill Stephenson, John Elliss

## **Agenda:**

### **Intro:**

The Club Secretary, ST opened the meeting, welcoming the current Captains, Pep Deluca and June Marshall, past captains and those members present.

ST thanked all those attending, particularly given the current situation relating to the pandemic.

### **Attendance:**

ST asked that all in attendance completed the attendance sheet and noted any apologies which were accepted.

### **Mins of Last Meeting:**

Last year's minutes were distributed for convenience.

The following outstanding action was updated:

PR to prepare and circulate the final accounts to members present and transfer winnings to appropriate members. PR advised the meeting that the final accounts had been completed in Jan 2021 although not circulated. PR noted that these were available for viewing upon request. Winnings had been transferred. It was therefore accepted by those present that the action was considered completed.

No additional actions were recorded however an update was given by ST on several other areas discussed/agreed.

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by: Kay Clark

Seconded by: Keith Briggs

### **Report/Matters Arising - Club Secretary (ST)**

ST noted that it had again been a challenging year as a result of the Pandemic, noting the lockdowns in both Nov 2020 and Jan 2021. It was positive that the course had been open whenever possible, thanks to the DTbH staff, restrictions being lifted as soon as possible.

Despite the challenges the Club had been able to support the running of all competitions, barring 2. Thanks should go to JG/SO and the Pro Shop staff for making this possible. In addition, it was highlighted that JG and SO had been able to fully implement the World Handicapping System (WHS) which was a significant undertaking and recognised by all those on the Committee.

As a result of the restrictions imposed many of the Committee's meetings early in the year had been virtual although the Committee had continued to meet in some form throughout the year.

Thanks, was also expressed to KB and SP for volunteering to take on the roles of Deputy Secretary and Treasurer respectively on appointment by the Committee during the year.

ST also advised the meeting that CM had been successful in qualifying as the Club's Safeguarding Officer, and England Golf requirement, and had fully implemented the provisions necessary for accreditation, thanking CM accordingly.

On behalf of the Club, ST also extended a heartfelt thankyou to the current Captains PD and JM for their support and commitment over the last 2 years. It was noted that they had worked tirelessly to drive forward improvements/facilities for members.

ST advised that 3 items for consideration at the AGM had been raised for consideration and had been included on the agenda. ST also advised those present that there would be no Any Other Business, however if members had any issues/concerns they wanted to raise they should contact ST or a Committee member directly who would deal with these accordingly.

### **Report – Director of Golf (MP)**

MP acknowledged this year has been again a very difficult year for all. Since Lockdown a great deal of work has happened behind the scenes by Forest Pines staff and the Committee to facilitate members competitions, social golf and a fantastic course.

MP expressed thanks to the committee who have formed an excellent relationship with Forest Pines and for all their hard work throughout the season. The time and effort they put in for the members was noted. The Competition card machine and the handicap touch screen system has been a great addition brought in by the Committee

The Green staff have worked tirelessly to present the course in great condition. The staff at DTbH are committed to improve the course to the highest standard possible. New machinery has been bought to show investment in the maintenance of the course. Steven Whittaker, Steve Hird, and MP have met on numerous occasions to discuss the winter works. Examples of work ongoing/planned are as detailed:

1. From November, verti draining of greens/tees/fairways will commence.
2. 2nd week in November will be starting to refurbish Forest 5th green pot bunker, putting new steps in.
3. Trimming low branches wherever possible, without having to use cherry picker.
4. Ongoing leaf clearance
5. Long grass cutting and picking up
6. Re turfing areas, mainly on tees where it has worn i.e Forest 6 white tee, Beeches 1st yellow tee,
7. Forest 6 will be on a mat throughout winter to allow for heavy dressing and over seeding on the main tee

MP also thanked all who helped with the divot night, noting he could not believe how many took the time to help improve the course. Another one will be organised soon.

Membership is very strong with a total number of 530 members. The traditional member's packs arrived, and the extra member's slots added by MP and PD for this year have made a huge difference. MP advised that AW has done a fantastic job this year under difficult circumstances and urged all, if you have any questions about membership, to contact him.

MP noted that the Pro Shop has had a difficult year due to global issues getting stock from Golf companies. He hoped that going forward this situation will improve, and as such, the team have placed additional orders to help guarantee stock arriving. MP relayed that they would continue to stock key brands such as Under Armour, Titleist, Footjoy, Callaway, Lyle and Scott and Puma will have Taylor Made being added. Other brands are being considered with decisions being made by the end of the year. Members are encouraged to check out the weekly newsletter for shop news and course information.

MP advised the meeting that the Simulator will also be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> November with a members evening being planned.

MP also asked that if any members have any questions please don't wait for a committee meeting or AGM, feel free to visit the shop or call and we will help with all queries

MP concluded by thanking JM and PD for all their hard work, noting that they have put a great deal of time and effort into the club and have always promoted Forest Pines in a positive way, both being great ambassadors.

MP also passed on his congratulations to KC and JC in their captaincy roles for the upcoming year and expressed confidence that all will work closely to make the year successful.

## **Report – Lady Captain (JM)/Designate (KC)**

JM expressed thanks to the ladies for the continual support they have given throughout the year, particularly the competitions where a number of last-minute changes have been made. SO and JG were also thanked as Handicap Secretaries given the extensive work they have committed on behalf of the members. PD noted the significant changes both SO and JG have implemented as a result of the WHS and reiterated his thanks. JM also noted the support offered by the Pro Shop staff and rangers with special thanks going to MP.

JM highlighted the recent success of the divot day with the support of members and MP on behalf of the greens staff.

The bar staff were also mentioned by PD, noting the pressure they are under, often being short staffed, while able to maintain an excellent, professional service.

JM went on to highlight a number of events during the year for which PD and JM had been involved with and enjoyed including the trip to Kenwick Park and the Widows Putter.

Thanks was noted for JC as Vice-Captain for organising the mixed matches. Special mention was made of the vision and commitment of the founder of Forest Pines, Dave Middleton who created the course 25 years ago with the support of Gill Stephenson. Thanks, was also noted for Dave Edwards who has always been a great ambassador of the club, who now not at the club, will be missed.

KC was thanked as for her support in organising the ladies matches, noting the success the ladies have had winning the division and achieving promotion. In addition, KC's wider support as a Vice Captain was also mentioned. JM also expressed his thanks for the agreeing to delay their captaincy for an extra year as a result of the pandemic. PD was also thanked as the Co-Captain for the last 2 years, noting his excellent interpersonal skills, encouraging new members and standing the club in the best possible light.

Finally, the support of the Committee members was noted in addition to the ongoing help given by Steve Whitiker, the General Manager.

Following the report by JM, the Vice Captain (Captain designate) addressed the meeting.

KC formally expressed her acceptance of the Post of Lady Captain for the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Forest Pines Golf Club, noting that having been Vice Lady Captain for the past two years has opened her eyes as to how much work, time & effort is given by the dedicated committee members - enabling the smooth running of a golfing calendar. KC wished to personally thank all involved for their dedication.

KC thanked JM for the past 2 years, noting this period has been testing. KC also commented that the Captains away weekend at Kenwick Park was extremely well organised and though out. KC looked forward to her Lady Vice Captain supporting her, helping to keep her on the straight and narrow, in the coming year.

KC suggested that she will endeavour to promote Forest Pines as the Golf Club to welcome all golfers, ensuring inclusiveness to one and all, fun golf, fair golf, competitive golf and social golf inclusive, asking all to strive to promote the game, welcoming new members young and old of all abilities.

KC went on to say that she will strive to make the coming year as enjoyable as possible for the members and asked that members do not hesitate to approach her or any committee member with any issues they have, or indeed any solutions they may have to offer.

Finally, KC wished all a very safe and healthy year, full of enjoyable golf.

### **Report – Men's Captain (PD)/Designate (JC)**

PD expressed what a difficult/challenging 2 years it had been as a result of the pandemic. He went on to thank John Gray for giving him the opportunity to take the role of Captain, also JM for her support as Lady Captain. Special thanks were also expressed for Steve Whitiker (General Manager at DTbH), MP (Golf Manager) and the Pro Shop team for all their support in improving the club for the benefit of the Members, noting that without them and the Committee much of the golf and facilities we have been able to enjoy wouldn't have been possible. PD also thanked his wife for her support and understanding in supporting him over the last 2, difficult, years.

PD also highlighted the support of the membership and congratulated those who were successful in the various competitions. Particular note was given to the accomplishments of Owen Musgrave, now the Club Champion for 5 years running. PD also thanked the men who have supported the B League were the team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> this year.

Special thanks were given to the club Secretary for the time given in support of the club/committee and the successful nomination for the England Golf hero award.

Following the report by PD, the Vice Captain (Captain designate) addressed the meeting.

JC expressed thanks to both PD and JM for their hard work and dedication throughout the last two years. JC expressed his view that it was an honour to wear the Captains jacket and represent Forest Pines as the Clubs Captain. He also advised that he was looking forward to the challenge ahead working with all members/staff and the management team of DTbH to ensure a successful year.

JC noted that it is hard to believe that at this moment in time both JC and KC should be looking to step down as Captain & Lady Captain, however due to Covid 19 this has changed. As a result, this has assisted in helping both JC and KC to understand various issues that may arise through our coming year.

JC reflected that JM had written a letter asking both JC and KC to be PD and JM's Vice Captains, when at the time of asking they were not able to fully commit. JM subsequently invited both JC and KC to discuss the matter further and detail the duties of a Captain. It was noted that PD was clearly was someone with energy/commitment and enthusiasm. This led to the view that JC would be happy to support PD as Vice-Captain.

Finally, JC expressed his hope that he and KC would be able to rely on the support available over this coming year to move the club forward.

### **Appointment of 2022 Vice Captains**

ST explained that in keeping with the Constitution (revised in 2020) captaincies, and therefore vice captaincies will now run from Jan – Dec. In keeping with this approach, the incoming Captains (JC/KC) were invited to put forward their respective nominations for Vice Captains for the year 2022. These were PR and KR.

Proposed: JC/KC

Seconded: PD/SO

No other proposals were put forward and the vote was unanimously carried.

### **Report – Junior Captain (SY)**

ST noted that this post was currently vacant and therefore no report was available.

### **Report – Treasurer (PR)**

PR detailed the current financial position of the Club and circulated the agreed accounts to those present for information. PR noted that despite the impact of the pandemic the club's accounts were in good order.

The requirement to have the accounts audited by a financially aware individual, in keeping with the Constitution, was sighted by ST and a recommendation made that this responsibility be delegated to PR.

ST asked those in attendance to formally accept the accounts as presented and the proposal relating to the accounts being audited, by a financially aware individual, being delegated to PR.

Proposed: JG

Seconded: KB

No objections were raised, and the vote was unanimously carried.

### **Points of issue addressed to Club Secretary by 7 days prior to date of this meeting**

- Increasing the handicap allowance for competitions (ST)

ST outlined a proposal, made on behalf of the Committee that for all men's board competitions, and relevant knock outs, the following arrangements are applied:

Maximum handicap index of 18 is applied meaning a max course handicap of 24.

Requirement of 20 cards to be submitted.

All other comps will have a max handicap index of 54 applied, including mixed comps.

The intention is also to have 3 divisions for medal/stablefords if numbers allow.

Following lengthy discussion around the merits of this approach a further recommendation, made by RD, was tabled to restrict the arrangements proposed, as a trial, during 2022, to 5 competitions, to be decided by JG. It was noted the lady's section, having already agreed to extend the handicap limit to the fullest extent, were asked to refrain from voting.

In order to progress the matter appropriately ST suggested that a vote be taken in the first instance on the original proposal as the second proposal was irrelevant if the proposal was not carried.

Vote on the original proposal was as follows:

Proposed: PR

Seconded: CM

The vote was 12 to 9 in favor of this arrangement and was carried.

Vote on the amended proposal allowing for the original proposed arrangements to be limited to 5 competitions on a trial basis for 2022 (with authority delegated to JG to determine which competitions the proposed arrangements should be applied) was as follows:

Proposed: RD

Seconded: MP

The vote was 15 to 7 in favor of this arrangement and was carried.

- Club Championship course set up

ST advised the meeting that he had received communication from Adam Green highlighting that for the Club Championship the pin positions for the second day were the same as the first day, in addition the greens had not been cut. The proposal being that these arrangements are addressed for future Club Championships.

Proposed: PD

Seconded: ST

No objections were raised, and the vote was unanimously carried.

- Invitation Day

ST advised the meeting that he had received a further communication from Adam Green requesting an invitation day be included in the calendar of events.

Discussion at the meeting highlighted that, while many of those present supported the proposal, cost would be determining factor given public were able to play the course at a reasonable cost by booking directly with DTbH. In comparison the cost for attending an invitation day would likely be, and had previously been, significantly higher. This was considered to be determining, detrimental, factor as such a decision couldn't be made at this

time. In order to progress the matter MP agreed to look the potential in consultation with the Committee.

**Action:** MP to explore potential arrangements for an invitation day in consultation with the Committee.

### **Appointment of Committee Members (ST)**

ST highlighted that Committee members undertook the relevant roles on a voluntary basis, often the roles in question were extremely demanding and attracts a great deal of unwarranted criticism from members which is not always helpful.

ST asked that if anyone felt that the Committee were not adequately fulfilling their role(s) and/or appropriately representing members any member of the Committee would be happy to stand down in favor of allowing another member to take their place. ST suggested that if members had concerns, they would be welcome to raise these with him.

- Treasurer

ST advised the meeting that as a result of PR's appointment to Vice Chair he would be reluctantly stepping down as Treasurer however he would continue to support the incumbent, when appointed.

No nomination had been made in respect of the role so, in keeping with the Constitution, an appointment would be made in due course by the Committee.

- Election of Deputy Secretary

ST advised the meeting that KB had been nominated for the role, no other nominations had been received. KB had previously been appointed by the Committee in keeping with the Constitution.

Proposed: PD

Seconded: JM

No other nominations were put forward and the vote was unanimously carried.

- Election of Deputy Treasurer

ST advised the meeting that SP had been nominated for the role, no other nominations had been received. SP had previously been appointed by the Committee in keeping with the Constitution.

Proposed: PR

Seconded: KC

No other nominations were put forward and the vote was unanimously carried.

- Election of Men's Deputy Handicap Secretary



ST advised the meeting that PD had been nominated for the role, however during the meeting MH also expressed a desire to undertake the role. No other nominations had been received.

The vote in respect of the appointment for PD was as detailed:

Proposed: ST

Seconded: KC

The vote was 7 in favor.

The vote in respect of the appointment for MH was as detailed:

Proposed: SO

Seconded: JC

The vote was 10 in favor.

As a result, MH was appointed to the role.

### **Conclusion (ST)**

ST thanked all for attendance and the meeting closed at 20.50 pm.