

Minutes of Forest Pines Golf Club AGM 26th October 2022

Present:

Steve Topham, Kay Clark, John Clark, Pete Reeves, Kate Reeves, June Marshall, Alan Hobson, Simon Parrott, John Killeen, Jeff Greenwood, Andrew Canwell, Phil Leighton, Denise Leighton, Karl Dixon, Stan Carter, Lynne Sutton, Keith Sutton, Helen Scruton, Michael Hill, Colin McCrobbie, Sue Over, Adrian Hewes,

Matt Peacock, Adam Webb,

Apologies:

Pep Deluca, Lynne Carter, Greta Pearson, Tinus Buitendam, Steve Whittaker, Jean Cook, Cei Chaplin, Debbie Link, Tony Link, Paul Moyse, Keith Briggs, Mark Clayton,

Agenda:

Intro:

The Club Secretary, ST opened the meeting, welcoming the current Captains, John Clark and Kay Clark, past captains and those members present.

ST thanked all those attending.

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 made available for convenience.

The following outstanding action was updated:

Increasing the handicap allowance for competitions

JG confirmed that the proposal agreed to be trialed following the 2021 had been undertaken. It was noted this was an agenda item for further discussion.

Club Championship course set up

MP confirmed that the pin positions had changed for the second day in 2022 and the greens had been cut.

Invitation Day

MP conformed that an Invitation Day had been within the calendar for 2022.

No additional actions were recorded.

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by: John Clark

Seconded by: Simon Parrott

Report/Matters Arising - Club Secretary (ST)

ST noted that it had again been a challenging year because of the Pandemic and more recently the summer heatwave. It was positive that the course had been open whenever possible, thanks to the DTbH staff.

Despite the challenges the Committee had been able to support the ongoing running of the Club. ST thanked the Committee for their efforts over the last year.

ST noted that a full calendar of golf and several social events had been supported throughout the year. These included two divot nights, quiz night, Christmas party and the 25th Anniversary event.

ST reminded those present that the Constitution sets out the objectives of the Club which the Committee seek to achieve wherever possible. These include providing competitions and fixtures for members in addition to providing a means for social interaction between members. The Committee's efforts in these regards being already outlined above. In terms of the objectives relating to the encouragement of playing of golf and increasing membership, particularly from underrepresented groups, a great deal of work had been undertaken by the Committee during the last year.

To this end, the Committee has sought the support of England Golf specifically aimed at Ladies and juniors. The ladies have been particularly successful in running a number of events including Women on Par and Invite a Friend, supported by MP and DTbH.

ST noted however, that more needs to be done, especially to encourage more juniors into the Club. This would include the requirement to recruit a Junior Organiser which members will note is on the agenda. The need to recruit a teaching pro was also considered critical. ST would be looking to produce a plan in the New Year detailing the steps required.

On behalf of the Club, ST also extended a heartfelt thankyou to the current Captains JC and KC for their support and commitment, noting their commitment has been critical in the success of the Club. It was noted that they had worked tirelessly to drive forward improvements/facilities for members. ST reminded all present that in keeping with the changes agreed at last years AGM the current captaincy would run until the end of the year.

Finally, ST reminded those present that there would be no any other business but encouraged all to raise any issues with either him or MP.

Report – Director of Golf (MP)

MP reflected that this year has been a much more 'normal' year at Forest Pines.

MP started off by thanking the members for all the support shown to the team at Forest Pines noting the committee once again have done a good job on the members behalf, working tirelessly to help with competitions, social golf and to attract new members. MP went on to reflect the relationship the committee have with the company is excellent, the time and effort put in being much appreciated and he hoped it would continue in the future.

MP advised those present that from 1st December the Hilton brand would be dropped affirming that nothing would change as the hotel would stay within the Qhotels collection as always been the case. Signage would likely change shortly to reflect this change.

MP reported that membership is very strong with a total of 510 members. AW working hard to support the membership. MP asked that if any member would like anything more, they should contact AW who would be happy to help. The Pro shop has had a very successful year with a lot more stock being available although some products have been delayed, there has been an increase in online through the Pro Shop also. All current companies will continue next year with a larger ladies offering and Forest Pines branded products.

MP reminded all present to check out the weekly newsletter for any shop news and that members credit can also be spent on any items not in stock but able to be ordered.

MP thanked both JC and KC as captains noting that they had put in a lot of time and effort throughout the year and always promoted Forest Pines in a positive way. Both being great ambassadors for the club. MP also congratulated PR and KR in their captaincy roles for coming year, being sure they will work well together and be able to assist them have a successful year.

In conclusion MP also that any member who needs anything they should contact himself or AW.

MP noted it had been a tough year for our green keeping team, although they have worked tirelessly to present the course in the best condition possible. MP presented a brief report on behalf of SH, the head greenkeeper.

SH again pointed out it had been a tough year this year with the heat and drought. Most of the fairways and tees are coming back but there are a few areas that might need to be looked at in the spring. Some tees were overseeded in October and hopefully if it stays warm there should be some new growth soon.

This year the team are planning to vertidrain greens, tees and fairways starting with Beeches greens and tees w/c 31st October, Pines the week after and Forest on the third week. Fairways will be started in November.

The team are also in the middle of clearing leaves, which it is anticipated will be ongoing until the end of December, if not later.

It is also intended to renovate the pot bunker to the front right of Forest 5 over winter (this has been put off for the last 2 years) keeping a similar shape but moving the steps and make them wider. This will be done to look the same as the other recently refurbished bunkers, with artificial turf face and rubber lining in the base.

SH noted Forest 6th men's tee is in a bad condition, as a result there is a plan to heavily seed and top dress it to hopefully regain a decent playing surface. While it is out of play a temporary tee will be in use. At weekends, the tees will go on the back of the ladies or the front of the white tees. Several other tees will be going on to mats to protect the main tee areas over winter. SH is also looking at better winter tees to go on the most needed holes. Other areas around tees will also be turfed.

SH again noted there has been a lot of crow damage this year, as a result an area of 5 hectares have been treated. The worst affected areas on tees will be re-turfed, other areas will be seeded and dressed when the leaves have been removed so as not to blow the seed or turf away.

There has recently been a tree survey carried out, and the results have shown that there are a number of dead/diseased or dying trees around the course. There is a 12-month window to get these trees attended to, some need removing, and others need pruning. The smaller, thinner trees can be done by the greenkeeping staff, but the bigger ones will have to be done by a contractor. A number of the lower branches on the trees along some of the fairways have become overgrown. There is a plan is to get these trimmed to a reasonable height so access can be afforded under the trees with machinery and facilitate more light as it appears there are a lot of areas where grass is dying.

Amongst the work outlined the team will be carrying out the usual green's maintenance i.e., spraying and aeration.

In early spring a program of preparing the greens will begin again to try and improve the playing surface.

Finally, SH thanked all members who attended divot nights in the past and the move to use divot bags.

Report – Men's Captain (JC)

JC welcomed all who attended and noted that the last few years have been very challenging, hoping things have returned to normality. JC also thanked those present for the honour & privilege of allowing him to be the Club Captain of Forest Pines for 2022.

JC reflected that three years ago himself and KC had joined the committee as Vice Captains, noting the time has passed quickly although JC was looking forward to the remaining 8 weeks left in his captaincy however, he remained committed and proud to be the captain of Forest Pines.

JC thanked all the past and present Committee members for volunteering their time and for their efforts in taking this club forward. JC also thanks SW (General Manager) for his support.

Thanks, was also attributed to MP and his team in the Pro Shop for their help throughout the year, not forgetting our Marshalls.

JC also thanked the green keepers on their hard work & dedication noting the course appears to be on its way back from the effect of the drought into what he believed to be one of the best courses in this area.

Thanks, were also attributed to PD for helping to look after the men's team.

JC thanked the Vice Captains PR & KR for their support in running this year's mixed events, noting both done a great job throughout the year. To this end JC congratulated them again and wished them all the best for the following year. JC also wished their vice captains all the best and looked forward to supporting them in the future if needed.

Most of all JC expressed his gratitude to the Lady Captain, for her support & dedication throughout the year.

Finally, JC took the opportunity to invite all to attend a Social Quiz evening next Tuesday & the Presentation night on November 25th and the final farewell Drive Out on 8th January 2023.

Report – Lady Captain

KC reflected that the Men's Captain (JC), KC's partner for many years, has already highlighted some joint thanks in his speech. As a result, KC would focus on the Ladies section she has had the honour of representing over the past year.

KC noted change is inevitable; the first was the Captains Drive In & Drive Out being amalgamated into a single event, which turned out to be a huge success, thanks to all involved.

Throughout the winter months the ladies section played a 9-hole winter league to keep the momentum and social side in swing, noting it was very well attended with feedback supporting that the events are maintained into future years.

KC reflected:

In April, the golf season started where some members travelled to Ireland, the event being delayed for 2 years due to Covid, however the event was a great success.

The Forest Pines 25th Anniversary event finally took place in May. KC thanked all those who helped to bring the event to a conclusion and hoped that all those who supported the event enjoyed their evening. The Cooks Cup (Men v's Lady Members) also took place with the ladies being victorious bringing home the cup. KC thanked the ladies for their sterling efforts and passed on her commiserations to the men.

The Lady's League was organised by the Vice Lady Captain KR who has done a sterling job organising this year's events. KC gave her personal thanks for her support throughout. KC

noted that unfortunately the team have gone down to the third division but look forward to next year's challenge with new courses to play with new people to meet.

In July, the Ladies organised our first Invite a Friend event. The event started with a putting challenge on the putting green a chance to win Haribo's, gin & wine. The event progressed onto the golf course to play 3 shortened holes, followed by some Slingsby Gin who sponsored of the event, which meant all in attendance had a fabulous time. KC also thanked the ladies who agreed to attend with their golf clubs & be buddies for the event.

A second, follow on event, took place in September allowing the new ladies and 3 juniors in attendance to have a group lesson kindly given by MP, who was excellent, relaxed & professional.

KC noted the time and dedication of the committee members, MP, and his team in addition to the lady's section was second to none. KC hoped that as a Club we can look to take this further & progress on helping new golfers of all ages, background, ethnicity & abilities to take up the game of golf in keeping with the objectives set out in the Constitution to endeavour to promote Forest Pines as a Golf Club to welcome all golfers, ensuring inclusiveness to one and all.

In October, the Lady Captains away event at The Belvedere in Bridlington was held. KC noted that the weather was exceptionally kind, and the venue was excellent. KC thanked all the ladies for making my trip one to remember. However, KC noted the event that took place for Club Captain (JC), where he fell into the water.

Finally, KC reflected that she had had a great year and it would soon be time to stand down from office and to hand over to the Vice Lady Captain (KR), whom she was sure, together with her chosen Lady Vice Captain (DL) would keep our ladies section moving forward from strength to strength.

Appointment of 2022 Vice Captains

PR welcomed the captains, past captains, members of the Committee and club members. PR stated it was an honour to stand here as the incoming Captain for 2023 and said he was looking forward to representing the club and being positive ambassador.

PR advised that he and KR had originally joined FP about a year after it first opened, playing at that time with a group of friends but did not get involved in other aspects of the club and subsequently left 6/7 years later re-joining in 2013 following retirement since then has become more involved in all sections of the club particularly the mixed and supporting the ladies' section where possible.

PR highlighted that, in his view, the captains and prospective captains, should be involved, where possible, in actively supporting all areas of the club be that playing in competitions and supporting team matches where necessary or supporting the efforts of the Ladies section to increase and sustain lady membership numbers. PR stated that he personally tries to, where possible, to join in the mixed section, not only in internal comps but in the matches against

other clubs. With reference to the juniors, he welcomed the efforts of the Committee to re-establish and maintain the juniors' section.

PR reflected that he realised not everyone will be able to actively participate in all aspects of the club, himself being in the fortunate position of being retired, but he reiterated that he believed all should demonstrate their support in whatever way they can.

PR went on to say that this is obviously not the sole responsibility of the captains, but he hoped he would be able to demonstrate that he takes these things seriously in his role as Captain next year, working alongside other members of the committee to try to grow the areas that need developing in order to provide a stable future for the Club.

PR commented that he also believed his nomination for Vice Captain reflects the views as he outlined.

KR thanked KC for inviting her to be the Lady vice-captain. KR reflected that as well as being a huge honour, it has been extremely enjoyable and rewarding to work alongside KC and knows that the experiences that they have shared together throughout this year will prove invaluable to during her captaincy year.

KC reflected that during her captaincy KC has been proactive in encouraging the development of the Ladies game within the club through emphasis on inclusivity and simple enjoyment of the game of golf. As Lady Captain KC intends to continue to support and promote those same ideals. At all times, KC will endeavour to pursue the philosophy that Forest Pines should be open and welcoming to all lady golfers, whether they are just starting out in the game or have been playing for many years.

KC noted that compared to many other golf clubs the Club had a relatively small Ladies Section, however, they are a very strong ladies' section. Strong in terms of our friendships with one another and support for each other in difficult times and strong in our support for other sections of the club. It has been really heartening that we have been able to welcome several new lady members over the last couple of years. New members who, with the encouragement and companionship of our longer-term loyal lady members have quickly settled in, made valuable contributions to the section, and have created a new dynamic. KR felt confident in saying that, as a group of Ladies, they collectively recognise the importance and benefits of encouraging, welcoming and, crucially retaining new lady members. KR noted that this is critical to ensuring the long-term future of the Ladies Section in the club and hoped that her choice of Lady Vice Captain reflects that belief.

KR expressed she looked forward to continuing to pursue the ideals promoted by KC this year with the support of my nominated Lady Vice Captain, and importantly with the enduring support of the Ladies at the club. As such it would be an immense privilege to take on the mantle of lady captain of this prestigious golf club from January 2023.

KR stated that her and PR's nominations as Vice Captains for next year are two people with strong golfing backgrounds, with a good understanding of the game of golf and who, since

joining the club, have integrated into all areas and are both positive advocates for the Club. The nominations being PL and DL.

ST explained that in keeping with the Constitution (revised in 2020) that nominees for Vice Captain should have been members of the club for 3 years however as a direct result of the pandemic PL and DL had only been members for 18 months. With this in mind, it was proposed that an exemption be made in this instance noting that a further item on the agenda to amend this criterion would be made in due course.

Proposed: PR

Seconded: KR

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

Report – Treasurer (PR for MC)

PR noted that MC had tendered his apologies and as a result would present the Treasurers report on MC's behalf.

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 clubs accounts were in good order with a net balance of £6,859.29 as of the 30th of Sept 2022. It was also noted there was a net change of -£2,256.09 as a result of the 25th Anniversary event held earlier in the year which was duly accounted for in previous years.

ST asked those in attendance to formally accept the accounts as presented.

Proposed: PR

Seconded: JC

No objections were raised, and the accounts were accepted.

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

- Increasing the handicap allowance for competitions (ST)

ST reminded all present that it was agreed at the AGM last year that a trial of 5 (non-board men's competitions) would be run with the maximum allowable handicap index with a view to assessing what handicap range winners of these competitions fall within. To this end JG gave a resume of the results.

JG explained that the vast majority of competitions were won by mid handicap players, unaffected by the increase, or any potential increase in handicap index. Some discussion ensued around the detail of the findings.

ST outlined the original proposal, suggesting a further vote is taken to implement in full. This being:

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.

A lengthy discussion ensued around the case, in light of the findings over the last year, for applying the maximum allowable handicap limit to all competitions in keeping with England Golf's recommendations to encourage players of all abilities. ST explained the current proposal was based on an incremental approach given the likely sentiment felt by members of the club.

In light of the above a further proposal was tabled by KS, this being:

A maximum handicap index of 28 is applied to all relevant competitions including board competitions.

Proposed: KS

Seconded: AH

The vote was carried with 11 to 3 in favor.

- Constitution

ST advised those present of a range of changes to the current constitution, on behalf of the Committee. These included:

- The section and criterion for proposal of candidates for Vice Captain be extended to committee members.
- Removing the requirement to be a member of the club for 3 years in order to be nominated as a Vice Captain or Committee member.
- A criterion to demonstrate the ability to add value to the club be included for nomination as a Vice Captain or Committee member.
- The Proposals in default of notice be removed.
- The option to vote by the raising of hands for the election of candidates be included.
- All appointments should be approved by the Company.
- Notice of the AGM should be posted on relevant (official) social media platforms in addition to club notice boards.
- A new role of Liaison Officer be established.

ST circulated the proposed amended changes to the constitution for consideration.

In addition, it was suggested that the date of the AGM be extended to include the option to hold in November.

In agreement with all those present a vote on bloc was agreed.

Proposed: ST

Seconded: JC

- The vote was carried with 20 to 1 in favor.

Appointment of Committee Members (ST)

- Election of Secretary

ST advised the meeting that he would, in the absence of another candidate, be willing to stand for another term.

Proposed: KC

Seconded: JC

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

- Election of Liaison Officer

As a result of the formal creation of the new Liaison Officer role, ST advised he had received a nomination from PD who had been undertaking the role to great effect for the last year. No other nominations had been received or made.

Proposed: ST

Seconded: JC

No other nominations were put forward. The vote was carried with 20 to 1 in favor.

- Election of Junior Organiser

JK volunteered to undertake the role in the course of the discussion.

Proposed: AH

Seconded: JC

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

Conclusion (ST)

ST thanked all for attendance and the meeting closed at 20.33 pm.