

# Minutes of Forest Pines Golf Club AGM 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **Present:**

Steve Topham, Pete Reeves, Kate Reeves, Mark Clayton, Keith Briggs, Pep Delduca, Chinny Mann, Roger Danby, Martyn Bett, Phil Leighton, Denise Leighton, Michael Hill, Paul Marris, Kieran Repton, David Gughan, Shaun Hustler, David Elliot, Jeff Greenwood, Ann Day, Lynne Carter, Stan Carter, June Marshall, John Killeen, Karl Dixon, Alastair Irons, Mandy Irons, Susan Over, Kay Clark, John Clark, Andrew Canwell, Jean Cook, Colin Pogson, Colin McRobbie, Jamie Pidd, Adi Hewes

## **In attendance:**

Matt Peacock

## **Apologies:**

Micheal Stenson, Dane Duffin, Helen Scruton, Adam Webb, Rick Maxfield, Paul Moyse, Tony Link, Debbie Link, Cei Chaplin, Danny Carter, Sue Harvey. Mal Yates, Eric Lewis

## **Agenda:**

### **Intro:**

The Club Secretary, ST opened the meeting, welcoming the current Captains, PR and KR, past captains and those members present.  
ST thanked all those attending.

### **Attendance:**

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

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

Last year's minutes were made available for convenience.  
No actions were recorded or outstanding.  
The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.  
Proposed by: JK  
Seconded by: KC

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

ST noted that the last year, was thankfully, less challenging in terms of the pandemic and the weather although the rain of late has proved challenging.

ST went on to thank Committee and the staff at the club for their efforts over the last year.

On behalf of the Club, ST extended a special thankyou to the current Captains PR and KR for their support and commitment over the last year, noting they had worked tirelessly over the last 10 months in supporting the club.

It was noted that the last year encompassed a full season of golf, the time that all planned competitions had been run for several years due a range external factors. The club had also expanded its membership and the teams had done well in competitions, something which the Captains would elaborate on.

ST reminded the meeting that the committee had continued to meet monthly and sought to address many of the issues brought to the attention of the committee members.

ST reminded those present that the constitution sets out objectives of the Club and as a result it was felt appropriate to summarise what progress had been made against these in order to provide those present some assurance that the committee was continuing to act in the best interests of the club.

ST outlined that these included:

- to encourage the playing of golf at the Forest Pines Golf Course in the true spirit and etiquette of the game;

ST highlighted that this was the main aspect of discussions at committee covering the following areas:

- Improvements to course
- Resolving members issues/complaints
- Creating an inclusive environment
- Member survey & improved communications
- Improvements to web site
- to maintain a handicap for each member:  
ST highlighted this was aspect was very much part of the arrangements in running of competitions for members.
- to provide competitions and fixtures for members:  
ST pointed out that this was undoubtably the main areas of business with a full calendar of competitions being run, including all board competitions, the first year for several years.
- to provide means of social interaction between members:  
ST advised that the committee had run several events although not as many as last year for variety of reasons. A planned divot night at the end of the month unfortunately having to be cancelled through lack of support. Disappointingly this was the second time the event had to be cancelled. However ST pointed out a Christmas party had been planned for this year and encouraged all members to support the event if possible.
- to increase membership of the club, particularly from underrepresented groups:

ST suggested this was a relatively new area of business for the Committee. To this end an inclusion plan had been developed with a focus on underrepresented groups including:

- Ladies

The committee had run, or supported the running of several events aimed at ladies with some success given a number of new lady members had joined the club. Both England Golf (EG) and DD continued to support in this area.

- Juniors

ST reminded those present that last year we had approved the appointment of a Junior Organiser (JK) to lead this area for the committee. To this end several events aimed at juniors, led by DD, had been run. The committee would continue to focus on this area and look for ongoing support from EG.

- Disabled

ST noted this was an area the committee were looking to develop moving forward with little progress having been made to date. Again support would be sought from EG and DD where possible.

- to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable adults:

ST reminded those in attendance that the club had adopted the EG policy, a requirement of both EG and Sport England. The policy was also updated annually. This area was included within the Inclusion plan. In addition the club had an appointed Safeguarding Officer (CMR).

In conclusion ST highlighted there was, he felt, certainly more we can, and want to do. As such ST encourage all to take an active role in the club if possible.

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

MP noted this year has been a successful year at Forest Pines and thanked the members for all the support shown to the team at Forest Pines. The committee had again done a good job, working tirelessly to help with competitions, social golf and attracting new members. MP advised that the relationship between the committee and Forest Pines is excellent and the time and effort expended are very much appreciated.

MP read the following report on behalf of the head greenkeeper, Steve Hird:

Micro tining the greens over the summer and this seems to have helped with the thick layer of organic matter that had built up over the last couple of years.

The crow damage has mostly recovered and up to now the only signs there are of any more damage is on the practice area, with the exception of a few patches on Beeches 3 and 9. The team have applied Nematodes this year on most areas and managed to get some free product as we had poor results from last years application. They are also being used as a test site on a couple of small areas for a new type of nematode.

It has been a wet year, in total contrast to last year, which has given us more problems with wormcasts and extra growth. There is currently nothing available on the market to cure the worm problem, although there is a soil conditioner that doesn't last that long. They have applied it on aprons and some fairways in August, and have some left which will be going on tees and some aprons in the week.

Leaves haven't really started to fall yet, but it's only a matter of time, and will keep us busy for a few months.

Starting in November they will Verti drain the greens with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " tines to relieve compaction, they will also be doing the tees and approaches on the 9 holes that are closed. From December we will be Verti draining the fairways with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " tines.

While the courses are closed we will also be starting to edge the bunkers ( which has been in our bunker audit for a little while now) we will also top them all up with sand if needed (some have already been topped up with sand).

Over the winter they will try and get the bare areas on and around the tees turfed as they look unsightly.

Hopefully a new path will be created on Forest 8<sup>th</sup> to link the 2 already existing paths together

There have been a few trees that have fallen on the course and a lot of debris to clear up from storm Babet, the greens held up pretty well with the amount of rain that fell that week (67mm). Luckily they managed to get them solid tined which helped the water soak through.

They have had a few trees removed by a contractor, that were on the tree survey list, and aim to carry on taking the smaller ones out that are mostly in play. There are still have a lot of low hanging branches to attend to, which we hope to move onto once the leaf clearing has stopped.

They will also be carrying out the usual maintenance i.e., spraying and aeration. In early spring they will be grading the greens as we did last year.

MP went on to advise as part of his report that membership is very strong with a total of 600 members (an increase of around 90 members from last year), AW working very hard to support the membership. MP advised that if any member would like anything please contact AW who is always there to help.

The Pro shop has also had a very successful year with all products having gone down well and availability within the industry has been good all year. All the current companies will continue next year with the larger ladies offering continuing. The one new brand being JLindberg which will be arriving in March 24. Also new Forest Pines branded items such as ball markers and Pitchforks will be available.

MP asked members not to forget to check out the weekly newsletter for any shop news and that members credit is there to be spent so any items not in the shop, the team may be able to order items in so please ask.

MP also thanked DD, the new PGA head teaching professional at the club noting he had settled in very well and has put a lot of time and effort in encouraging junior golf, ladies golf, and all other lessons. He has also worked with the committee to improve teaching within schools and to advertise Forest Pines in the local community. Any members interested in Golf lessons were encouraged to contact DD.

Lastly MP thanked PR and KR on their Captains year, noting they have 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 PL and DL in their Captains roles for next year and was sure they will work well together and help them have a successful year.

As always MP advised that if any member who needs anything your more than welcome to contact AW or himself.

### **Report – Men's Captain (PR)**

PR welcomed Past Captains, committee members and club members to our AGM, and thanked all for attending.

PR noted there has been lots of positives during the year but there are still areas, as a club, that we can improve upon and as we move forward the committee will continue to work on your behalf to strengthen the club wherever possible.

PR advised it been a successful year competition-wise with all the main club competitions being well supported by members. In relation to team golf, the men's B team won the Lincolnshire North League and went on to play the Lincolnshire South champions, Boston in the final play off but despite some close matches, they unfortunately lost. Nonetheless, it was a successful season. PR thanked everyone who represented the club during the year. In addition, PR noted that as a club, we have not entered teams in the Lincolnshire Union of Golf Clubs competitions in recent years but this year teams were entered in both the Elsham and Bramley Trophies with some success. The teams were Finalists in the Elsham Trophy

finishing 4th. They were also Semi-Finalists in the Bramley Trophy. PR thanked PD for acting as Team Captain, arranging fixtures, and ensuring we have teams to put out, also PL for his participation and for supporting PD during the season.

PR also highlighted the mixed section of the club has gone from strength to strength, and we have been lucky enough to welcome some new couples during the past year as we gained new members. The annual 'Playing Away' weekend was again a big success. The Friday Night Summer League has just ended, and the mixed winter league begins on the 4th November.

PR advised he had started to organise a Seniors section who had their inaugural competition in August followed by a short meeting to look at ways forward. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the desire to keep opportunities for social golf with friends rather than an endless round of competitions, therefore it was decided to keep competitions down to once every three weeks. The first of these was held last Thursday and was very well supported with 27 people playing. The next development is arranging fixtures against other golf clubs for next season, a process that has already begun.

PR reminded those present that in July we held a members invitation day, although the turnout from members was disappointing the day itself was very successful, all of the guests that took part thoroughly enjoying the experience. Thanks was extended to MP for helping to sort out the prizes for the day. Also in July the Captains weekend was held, this was very successful, especially the Sunday when the turnout was excellent. PR thanked everyone that contributed to the weekend and helped to make it special for KR and himself. Special thanks also went to the staff within the pro shop for their help and assistance when we experienced some difficulties due to the weather and a wasps nest prompted a move inside, this working out very well.

PR mentioned that a constant complaint in recent years has been communication, with members suggesting that they are not aware of what is happening within the club. As a result PR introduced a monthly newsletter which he reflected had been appreciated by many members. Unfortunately though, there are still some members who do not open their emails so still miss out on information. PR advised that the data provided by ClubV1, shows if the emails have been read by individuals, delivered but not read or indeed not delivered. For example, the last newsletter was read by 283 people but not read by 146 people.

However, PR still feels that it is the right thing to do and hoped that PL intended to carry on this initiative next year. PR noted that 28 emails remained undelivered so asked if any members are not receiving these emails, please check your details are correct with AW.

More recently, PR and KR had begun having dialogue with the Hotel's Operations Manager, Jasmin Fennel, to try to establish a working relationship that will benefit members. Jasmin has been very positive about this, and this will continue next year with PL and DL. The aim

being to keep members informed of any future developments or changes made by the Hotel.

PR expressed several thanks. First of all to Lady Captain KR for all of the support and encouragement throughout the year and for doing an excellent job in continuing to develop the Ladies section. Secondly to all of the committee members for their support, hard work and their time in trying to move the club forward. Also to MP and the team in the proshop, to all of the Marshalls and all of the Green staff. And finally, to PL and DL for their support throughout year, especially in organising and running the summer League and PR wished them a very successful Captains Year.

PR reflected that standing at the AGM a year ago, he expressed how much he was looking forward to representing Forest Pines Golf Club as its Captain and cannot believe now that his year is almost over. PR felt it had been an honour and a privilege to be known as Forest Pines Club Captain and when recently talking to one of the Past Captains on the subject of quickly it had gone the individual replied: 'I always say, you are only the Captain for a year but a past Captain forever'.

So, finally, PR thanked everyone within the club for allowing him this opportunity, and committed to continue to support the club, moving forward, in any way he can.

#### **Report – Lady Captain**

KR reflected that It had been an immense privilege to be Lady Captain of this prestigious club. As well as being a huge honour, it has been a most enjoyable and positive experience to work alongside fellow members of the committee and to carry out the duties as Lady Captain with the enduring support of the wonderful ladies of Forest Pines.

KR noted that in her speech at last year's AGM, as Lady Captain incumbent, she promised to continue to build on the work initiated by past Lady Captain KC, in encouraging the development of the Ladies game within the club, through emphasis on inclusion and enjoyment of the game of golf. Throughout the year KR was proud to be able to say that every member of the ladies section had supported that philosophy by ensuring that everyone who has joined in the year had been made to feel welcome and valued, whether they are new to golf or have been playing for many years.

KR noted it had been wonderful that, this year, we have been able to welcome 7 new lady members. This has been helped, in no small part by the long-awaited appointment of our Professional, DD. DD had helped to build on the success of last years Women on Par initiative, by offering group coaching sessions to a group of ladies who are new to golf. This was followed up in July by an invitation to these ladies to join some of our lady members for a "get to know us" 9 hole Texas Scramble. It is heartening that the majority of those who took part in these sessions have now become bona fide members of Forest Pines and are

already showing increased confidence to play both in the mixed competitions with their partners and in the Ladies Saturday competitions. KR expressed a big thank you, again, to DD for organising group coaching sessions for Lady members earlier in the year.

KR asserted that an emphasis on inclusion has had a positive impact on the culture and development of the Ladies Section over these last 2 years. Removing handicap limits for Ladies competitions was indeed a contentious issue, for some, at the time. However, doing this has not had the impact that some feared. What has happened though, is that competitions, both formal and informal, have been won by a broad and diverse number of people ranging from the lowest handicaps to the highest. KR pointed out that this year has not been dominated by any individual or any handicap, this being something we should feel proud of. Indeed, some of the long-standing lady members who have, for many years, paid their money to support competitions whilst knowing that they stood little chance of winning due the handicap limits imposed, now have that chance and it's been good to be able to celebrate their success when they have taken it.

KR mentioned that the year began with the 9 hole Ladies League which has proved successful and popular during the winter months. Even in inclement weather, having this on the fixture list provides a welcome opportunity to meet up for a coffee and a chat. This will continue into the forthcoming winter months. As usual, the board competitions ran from April through to October. Regrettably, injuries and personal commitments have unavoidably impacted on participation in some of these competitions this year. But hopefully, successful rehabilitation, and the intake of new lady members this year will help to boost participation in the year ahead.

KR advised those present that the Ladies League team played Ashby Decoy, Grimsby and Market Rasen in Division 3 this year. Unfortunately, the LWGA are not quite on the same page as us when it comes to inclusion. KR noting that on the subject of handicapping (despite representation from several clubs, including Forest Pines), they have been resistant to suggestions to increase the handicap index cap above 20.4 for teams participating in County League Matches. However, despite a significant number of players losing quite a few shots due to this imposed cap, the team put up a spirited performance in all our matches, winning 1, drawing 3 and losing 2 matches. The club, does however, remain in Division 3 for 2024 and will play Grimsby, Market Rasen and Elsham. KR thanked all who gave their time and energy to supporting our league team this year.

KR advised that the Ladies Club Championship was well supported this year. Holding the Championship over 2 days, incorporating the Walker Cup and The Stephenson Trophy, now seems to be an established and popular format. Congratulations went to the Ladies Club Champion 2023, Lady Vice captain, DL.



In addition, only a few weeks ago, 16 members attended the Lady Captain's away event at Oulton Hall. Whilst the course conditions proved rather difficult, the weather and Oulton Hall hospitality contributed to an enjoyable, fun few days. KR was immensely grateful to all those who attended and made this such a happy and memorable occasion for her personally.

KR felt lucky to have had a wonderful year, so far, as Lady Captain due entirely to the tremendous support received. Thanks were expressed in particular for MP and the Forest Pines team. KR also thanked all the Forest Pines Ladies, reflecting that how comforting it was to know, that sometimes, when you are not feeling at your most confident, you have a group of Ladies rooting for you and having your back. Special thanks was also given to Past Lady Captains SO and KC for their guidance and support throughout the year.

Finally, KR expressed how immensely grateful she was to DL for accepting her invitation to be Lady Vice Captain. DL's tireless commitment and sheer enthusiasm, not just for the game of golf, but for her role as Vice-Captain has been invaluable. KR noted DL had done a tremendous job of organising the mixed section matches, including the summer and winter leagues and the mixed friendly matches with other clubs. KR commented that it had been a pleasure working alongside her, again thanking her for everything she had done this year to support KR.

#### **Appointment of 2023 Vice Captains**

PL, as the men's Captain incumbent, thanked PR for everything he has done during the past year, noting he had put in a lot of time and effort. PL went on to advise that he intended to carry on with the initiatives PR had started and keep them moving forward.

Aside from promoting the club in a positive manner wherever he could, PL hoped he could help to unify the club members as a whole, noting that currently there are a number of sections who all run independently of each other and as a result he would like to try and encourage a more club like atmosphere amongst us all.

With this in mind PL had chosen a Vice Captain who has been a member for many years, knows everyone in the club and also understands the need for working with the hotel to achieve a true club type atmosphere.

PL therefore proposed JK to be Vice Captain and take over the role of club Captain in 2025. DL as the ladies Captain incumbent thanked the committee and captains PR and KR for all their hard work in 2023 within the club, believing in Forest Pines Golf club and being true advocates for the club not just within, but externally too .

DL especially thanked KR for asking her to be her lady vice. It was unexpected, however she was honoured to accept and hoped she had been as helpful as she possibly could be.

DL noted that they are a small group of ladies but over the summer they have managed to gain a couple of new lady members and KR has worked very hard to encourage them to come along and play with us.

DL went on to say that she hoped when KR hands over the reins of captaincy in 2024 she can do as good a job as she, KR, has in 2023. DL would also like to thank members of the committee, JG and SO, the handicap secretaries and competition organisers and ST for his tireless work as secretary, not forgetting MC for undertaking the finance role, all who do so free of charge.

DL also hoped that SO would agree to still be the handicap secretary and competition organiser as she thought they would work well together and was sure the ladies section would continue to run as smoothly as it has done in previous years.

With reference to the role of Vice Captain, unfortunately † DL had been unable to nominate an individual at this time having reached out to the section for volunteers, with only 4 people having responded, none of whom were interested in taking over in 2025. As a result DL agreed, for the time being to fulfil the role until a willing person could be found before 2025.

In respect of the nomination of JK as Men's Vice Captain and DL as Ladies Vice Captain the following decision/vote was taken:

Proposed: PD

Seconded: PR

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

### **Report – Treasurer (MC)**

MC detailed the current financial position of the Club and circulated the agreed accounts to those present for information. MC noted that the clubs accounts were in good order with a net balance of £4,137.42 as of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023. It was also noted there was a net change of -£2,721.87 as a result of purchases made on behalf of the club such as the new competition boards.

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

Proposed: KC

Seconded: JC

No objections were raised, and the accounts were unanimously accepted.

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

### **England Golf Governance Review (ST)**

ST gave an overview of the clubs governance against the recent guidance issued by England golf in order to assure members of that appropriate governance arrangements were in place.

A completed England Golf Health Check Questionnaire was circulated for reference. ST noted there were 5 areas from 11 of partial compliance, the remain 6 areas being fully compliant. These included:

- Change management and stakeholder engagement
- Recognisable identity
- Compliance with the Code for Sports Governance (fully compliant in 5 areas, Partially compliant in 2 areas (committee members relationships/independent scrutiny of accounts), non compliant in 1 area (risk management))
- Full understanding of our legal obligations
- Appropriate policies and procedures in place

An action to address the outstanding areas was undertaken by ST, on behalf of the Committee.

**ACTION: ST, on behalf of the committee to address areas of partial compliance.**

### **Trophies**

PR outlined a range of options relating to trophies as a result of some trophies running out of room on the base for new winners.

A discussion took place around the merit of stopping the engraving of names on trophies in lieu of names being only added to the newly purchased boards. A further discussion took place around the benefits of retaining trophies and where possible extending the base to accommodate new names, where this was not possible new trophies would be purchased. This was on the basis that the competition was, in most cases, played for the named trophy.

A vote was taken to retain trophies and continuing to engrave names accordingly.

A further vote was taken to extend the base to accommodate new winners and replace trophies on a case by case basis where this was not possible.

Proposed: PD

Seconded: AH

The vote was carried with 30 to 5 in favor of the first point and carried unanimously in regard to the second point.

### **Club Championship Tie Break (JG)**

JG outlined the current arrangements where, in the event of a tie break at the club championship, a further 18 holes of golf has to played to determine the winner. Following debate within the committee a proposal was tabled to change the arrangements on the second day of the competition such that competitors play in handicap order (high to low, with the lowest handicap player teeing off last) and in the event of a tie break additional holes are played on a sudden death basis.

Proposed: PD

Seconded: AH

No objections were raised, and the accounts were accepted.

### **Hole in One Board Criteria (JG/SO)**

JG and SO put forward a proposal, on behalf of the committee, that the requirement for being listed on the hole in one board be restricted to members who are playing in an club officiated competition. This would exclude League or team matches.

Proposed: KB

Seconded: PM

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

### **Survey Results (ST)**

ST gave an overview of the results from the recent survey issued to all members. A sheet detailing the consolidated results was circulated for reference. ST noted that, in keeping with the England Golf governance framework that an annual survey would be circulated to all members with the intention of further improvements to the club and facilities.

### **Men's Saturday Competitions (PR)**

Following feedback from members, PR advised that a trial would be commenced for a 2 month period (January/February) where a competition would be run each month (in lieu of the regular Sunday competition) to gauge interest in running competitions on a Saturday. An action was agreed for RD to advise of Saturday Clutch dates so as to avoid conflicts. Action: RD to advise JG of Saturday Clutch dates in January and February.

### **Handicap Requirement for Competitions (PR)**

PR proposed, on behalf the committee, that to compete in any board club competition players must have played in a min of 5 qualifying competitions in the last 12 months. However it will be possible to take a tee time in a board competition in order to record a qualifying score without paying for entry.

Dispensation for medical issues would also be considered.

Following some debate a vote was taken on the proposal tabled.

Proposed: KB

Seconded: MB

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

### **Change to the Henry Mosey Competitions (PL)**

PL advised that currently the Henry Mosey Competitions require a minimum age of 50. It was noted that the LGU and most other clubs run senior competitions at 55+.

The club currently funds the winner of the Henry Mosey to represent the club in the Lincs Senior championship which can only be a person of 55+ age.

It was also noted that PR was initiating a senior section which is 55+ to match the clubs against matches will be played.

PL therefore proposed that there is a change to the minimum age of these competitions to 55.

Following some debate a vote was taken on the proposal tabled.

Proposed: PL

Seconded: PR

The vote was not carried with 2 to 24 against therefore the existing age limit of 50 applied.

An action to advise members of competitions where entry into a LGU competition (or similar) was being played for in addition to the main (club) competition was taken by the committee.

**Action: Committee to advise members of where entry into a LGU competition or similar was being played for in addition to the main (club) competition.**

### **B Team (JP)**

JP raised some concern around the fairness of the way in which members of the B Team were selected.

Following some debate it was agreed a list of availability would be provided prior to the start of the season.

RD also suggested a second friendly B Team be considered to enable more players to take part in competitive matches. KD also raised the possibility of running 2 B Teams.

An action was accepted by ST on behalf of the committee to consider the areas discussed.

Action: For the Committee to make a list of availability for inclusion in the B Team available. In addition consider additional B Team options.

### **Constitution (ST)**

ST put forward a proposal, on behalf of the committee, that communications should be added to the job description of both Captains and the club formally approve the inclusion of the England Golf Equality, Diversity & Inclusion policy as an addendum to the constitution

- Proposed: JK

- Seconded: JG

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

## **Appointment of Committee Members**

ST advised that two posts were currently available on the Committee, these being the Men's Handicap Secretary and Deputy

### **Election of Men's Handicap Secretary**

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

Proposed: ST

Seconded: PR

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

### **Election of Men's Deputy Handicap Secretary**

PD put his name forward for the above role. No other nominations were received.

Proposed: JC

Seconded: AH

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

### **Conclusion (ST)**

ST thanked all for attendance and the meeting closed at 20.57 pm.