

**Forrester Park Golf Club**  
**Annual General Meeting 02/10/2019**

**COURSE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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The Course Committee continues to meet regularly to receive Jeff Taylor's updates on course conditions and to consider suggestions and requests from members. Each Section is represented and the meeting Minutes are shared via the section websites. Sincere thanks are due to all who have given their time and organisation to these meetings, especially Craig and Jeff for fitting matters into their busy schedules.

The relatively dry conditions through last winter and spring, followed by another summer with extended periods of warm weather, have delivered both pleasant playing conditions but challenges for our Head Greenkeeper and his staff. Diseases that affect our fairways and greens thrive in the absence of the cold that helps keep them in check – leatherjackets especially have caused problems this year, together with birds seeking them out on the greens. Jeff's team are constantly adapting to the changing regime of chemical and fertiliser regulations which can impact on the treatment options for these diseases – nevertheless, members have commented positively throughout the year about the overall quality of the course, especially the greens and this surely reflects the endeavour and expertise of our greenkeepers.

A number of projects have featured in the committee's work this past year:

- New bunkers have been constructed on the 13<sup>th</sup> and one removed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – these have greatly improved the conditions in areas that were previously blighted by problematic drainage.
- The OOB area near the 12<sup>th</sup> green has been revised and made easier to explain and understand.
- A colour-coding system has been introduced to indicate pin positions.
- New Rules introduced by the R&A have been implemented, notably the promotion of "ready-golf" and the option to putt without removing the pin – both initiatives designed to speed-up play.
- Work has steadily continued to remove and tidy areas previously overgrown with blackthorn, while dead elms have been removed from alongside the 10<sup>th</sup> tee. Maintaining and managing the large number of trees on our course is a constant and time-consuming task – several copses have received a lot of work to clear ground beneath and make the finding of balls an easier and quicker exercise.
- Drainage improvements have been made around the 1<sup>st</sup> green, and between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> green/tees as well as continuing maintenance of the sprinkler system.
- A sizeable investment (£40k+) has been made in updating machinery and equipment.

Several tees have been improved with topdressing, although several more are proving challenging to control against ground conditions and unwanted attention from rabbits. Tees will continue to be the focus for further development going forward.

The committee thanks members for their understanding and appreciation of the work done around the course – the cooperation received by most in using the seed-boxes on the tees, repairing pitch-marks and respecting etiquette with trollies and buggies around the greens, remains vital to supporting the drive to keep our course in top condition. Member requests and suggestions are fundamental to the committee's work and always welcome – each and every one is discussed and evaluated.

In addition to those of from our own members, praise and appreciation for the course continues to be received from visiting players, societies and teams – resources of manpower and funds are always going to be limited, but we should remain mindful of how much has been, and continues to be, achieved to provide our golfing enjoyment.