



Forrester Park Golf (Men's Section) AGM Meeting on 27th September 2023 at 7pm

Present: Kevin Royan (Chair)
Simon Harding (Treasurer)
David Gillespie (Greens Committee Liaison)
David Steel (Captain)
Martin Gunfield (Vice-Captain)
Andy Young (General Committee)
Mike Manning (General Committee)
Moir Gunfield (Minutes Secretary)
Bill Chapman (Forrester Park)
Robbie Cowling (Proprietor)
15 members

Apologies: Gary Huggins, Dawn Marriott, Keith Parrot and Tim Forrester.

1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>KR welcomed everyone the AGM and apologised for the oversight of not sending the AGM Agenda to the Vets and Ladies Sections.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received as above.</p>
3.	<p>Men's Captain's Report</p> <p>David Steel Spoke: Hello members of Forrester Park. The phrase 'reluctant Captain' really applies to me, but I've given it a good go. I thank all that have assisted me this year, you know who you are.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I haven't raised as much as I'd have liked for my charity. A sum of £1,000 is better than nothing though I guess. Guide dogs for the blind I'm sure won't turn it down. All the luck in the world to Martin Gunners Gunfield for his year.</p> <p>I look forward to being possibly the best thing at our lovely club, an ex-captain.</p> <p>Once again. I thank you all for your support and good humour towards me. Here's to a wonderful future.</p>
4.	<p>Vets Captain's Report</p> <p>Rob Morley spoke: I cannot believe how quickly the last 12 months have passed since my amazing 207 yard Drive in. Well, that's amazing for me.</p> <p>So much has changed since Robbie Cowling took over the club and has made a considerable investment.</p>

	<p>Firstly, some word of thanks.</p> <p>Bill Chapman was appointed General Manager in November and has done a fabulous job; introducing the golf shop, studio, redecorating the clubhouse, new trophy cabinets, TV in the clubhouse and putting together some great evening events such as Quiz Nights, Bingo, Race Night and soon a Casino Night and Christmas Party nights.</p> <p>The green staff have worked hard to get the course into the excellent condition that it is today, considering last year's hot weather and this year's rain. Still work to be done and I understand a very large delivery of sand for the bunkers is due soon.</p> <p>Thanks to Leo, Sally, Carinda, Juliette and the backroom/kitchen staff for their smiling happy work behind the bar. The menu and quality of the food is excellent. If you haven't tried it yet – you don't know what you are missing. Sadly, we lost Kerry to pastures new but wish her good luck in her new job.</p> <p>Finally, in this section, thank you to you, the members, without your support there would be no vets section, also thanks for the lovely comments you have passed to me regarding my work as Captain. Let's not forget the committee who work tirelessly and based on comments from other visiting clubs, how envious they are.</p> <p>The weekly competition still attracts 60-70 players. Please keep this up.</p> <p>Sadly, our performance in matches has been disappointing, however, every match played in the spirit of friendship and thank you to everyone who participated.</p> <p>My charity, The British Heart Foundation will receive a donation of £2,500 thanks for your support and generosity.</p> <p>I have had some new nearest the pin/longest drive markers made as our current ones are looking rather tatty.</p> <p>Finally, the only thing I will miss is my parking space. I wish Neil every success as our new Captain.</p>
5.	<p>Ladies Captains Report</p> <p>Dawn Marriott was not present and sent the following, which was read out by Kevin Royan: It really doesn't seem a year ago that I drove off dressed as a bunch of grapes.</p> <p>We have had a great year in the ladies section and have raised almost £2,500 for Cystic Fibrosis Trust.</p> <p>I have had great support from my husband Steve and my committee.</p> <p>The club is going from strength to strength with our new owner and new General Manager, Bill Chapman.</p> <p>The ladies have been very supportive and I'm sure that they will continue to be so for Viggi next year.</p>
6.	<p>Juniors Representative's Report</p> <p>There is not currently a Junior section.</p>
7.	<p>Handicap Secretary's Report</p> <p>Kevin Royan spoke:</p>

	<p>This will be very brief as most people know now how the system works and most of you are regularly entering your scores on a Sunday into 'HowDidiDo' or the 'MyEg' site.</p> <p>One thing I will say is you are supposed to sign in prior to playing your round of golf (which most of you do) but if you do sign in either for a competition or a general play round, please make sure you enter your card once you have finished your round. If you do not do this, there is an automatic penalty score that will be added to you EG record and this will result in a handicap reduction for non-compliance of the rules. We have had several in the last year and I have managed to sort most of them out, but for persistent offenders EG will stop me from doing this.</p>
8.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Simon Harding did a quick overview of the ins and outs over the financial year and the balance as at the end of the financial year after taking into consideration all outstanding liabilities was £1785.06. Outstanding liabilities mainly comprise of Charity money yet to be handed over, vouchers issued and yet to be redeemed and members prepayment Competition Credit Account money. £600 of the prepayment money is held in dormant accounts where those players have not played in a single competition over the last 12 months. The Treasurer intends during the next few months to contact these members, where possible, to offer them a full refund of any outstanding CCA money.</p> <p>It was also explained that the real current balance is approximately £900 as £500 has been set aside to support the incoming Captain, Martin Gunfield, and the club has yet to pay the entrance fees to the Essex Golf Union for the various inter club competitions.</p> <p><u>Sunday Competitions</u></p> <p>A proposal was put forward by the Committee to increase the Competition Fee from £3.50 to £5.00. It was highlighted that this has been at the £3.50 level for over 20 years. 80% of the money taken in is given back as prizes and the increase would increase the prize pot and provide the opportunity for prizes in some of the competitions to be extended beyond the first three.</p> <p>It was also explained that the Winter League Entry Fee would also be increased from £10 per entrant to £15. 100% of the entry fee is given back as prizes and with the present procedure of returning the entry fee back to successful teams that qualify for the later stages, plus the prizes for the competition, there have been times when this has left a shortfall.</p> <p>There were no dissenting voices at the meeting to either proposal so both will be implemented with immediate effect.</p> <p><u>Competition Credit Account (CCA).</u></p> <p>It was explained that despite making the members aware in April that it was the intention to exclude anybody entered on BRS without sufficient funding in their CCA from that day's competition, there are a number of members who continue to enter without sufficient funding. The committee has been lenient on this up to now but as of October 8 this will no longer be the case. These means that they will not be able to win any prizes that day and will not qualify for any birdie vouchers or receive the £100 financial support for any holes in one.</p> <p>It was mentioned that before COVID the club effectively had a similar policy as every entrant had to sign in with the starter and pay his entry fee in advance. It is every member's responsibility to manage their CCA. All members can check their CCA status at any time by going on the Forrester Park Men's Section part of the website and the treasurer will also have an up todate listing on a Sunday. Any member wishing to pay in cash or vouchers can do so via the treasurer.</p>

9.	<p>Competition Secretary's Report</p> <p>Kevin Royan spoke: The competition programme has run fairly smoothly this year. The Winter League had no cancellations due to bad weather. We had several shotgun starts this year with the 4Man Texas and Yellow Ball being the most popular especially as they were played in the winner months earlier than the traditional January to March medals. We also tried a Drawn 4ball for the Easter Cup, this was also very popular (although difficult to organise on the day).</p> <p>We will also try these shotguns again this year, numbers permitting as we can't expect to have the whole course to ourselves if there are insufficient players to warrant it.</p> <p><u>County Competitions</u> Leslie Wood with Paul Beckwith as Captain managed two home wins losing out to Hainault in the third round. Thornton Cup with John Luxford as Captain lost in the 1st round away to Chelmsford (no surprise there). Jubilee Cup with Paul Kelly as Captain and Normal Plum with Ted Layton as Captain – games all played but no great success for our teams.</p> <p>I would like to thank our team captains and hope they be happy to take up the mantle for the 2024 season.</p> <p>Our guest day this year was successfully run although with a much reduced field and my thanks go to Bill for stepping in at the last minute to run it for us.</p> <p>The Winter League for 2023/24 is full subscribed. There are slight changes to the format this year as we are following England Golf recommendations. We will be playing 90% of handicap and each team will be allowed two Reserves in the league section, but these must not be anyone who is playing in the competition. A list of reserves will be provided prior to the start of the competition. All these changes and examples of Handicap working, rules and regulations are displayed on the Men's website.</p> <p>Competition fees will be going up for the following season to £5 starting on 8th October and this year's Winter League will be £15 per person. This has already been explained in the treasurer's report.</p> <p>Please keep your CCA up to date. As already explained, insufficient funds on the day will result in you not being entered into the competition, you will not be able to win and you will not receive birdie vouchers and most importantly you will not be covered for a hole in one.</p> <p>Finally, I ask that if you have something to say to a committee member, can you respectfully wait until the day's golf has finished.</p>
10.	<p>Course Report</p> <p>There was not a course report as this had been covered under other agenda items.</p>
11.	<p>Proprietor's Report</p> <p>Robbie Cowling advised that you can ask him any questions whenever he is here and he will always be honest.</p>
12.	<p>Committee Members, Confirmation and Appointments</p> <p><u>Incoming Captain:</u> Martin Gunfield</p>

	<p><u>Vice Captain:</u> Gary Huggins proposed by Andy Young and seconded by Kevin Royan</p> <p><u>Proprietor:</u> Robbie Cowlin</p> <p><u>Club Secretary:</u> Kevin Royan <u>assisted by:</u> Moir Gunfield proposed by Martin Gunfield and seconded by Andy Young.</p> <p><u>Hon. Treasurer:</u> Simon Harding proposed by Steve Barraclough and seconded by Mike Manning.</p> <p><u>Handicap Secretary:</u> Kevin Royan proposed John Pain and seconded by Peter <u>Waknell</u>.</p> <p><u>Competition Secretary:</u> Kevin Royan proposed by Dave Wright and seconded by Mike Manning.</p> <p><u>Outgoing Captain:</u> David Steel</p> <p><u>General Committee:</u> Mike Manning proposed by Kevin Royan and seconded by Simon Harding.</p> <p><u>General Committee:</u> Andy Young proposed by Mike Manning and seconded by Steve Barraclough.</p> <p><u>General Committee:</u> David Gillespie proposed by Kevin Royan and seconded by John Pain</p>
13.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>What are Bill's & Robbie's short term plans?</p> <p>Robbie spoke and said everyone knew the rational for buying the club and confirmed that there are no changes to the use of the club as it is now for the foreseeable future. He advised that he will always be transparent and honest.</p> <p>Robbie spoke about the continued plan for course improvements, which included working on irrigation on the tees and fairways and that there will be work done on and around the course on water features to aid this.</p> <p>There are only 8 weddings currently booked for 2024 and more plans are being made to improve the venue to be better to attract more.</p> <p>It was said that although the course has improved significantly, there are some problems with overhanging trees etc.</p> <p>Bill spoke advising that he and Robbie meeting regularly and confirmed that the club have purchased a top of the range leaf blower. There are plans to trim back trees and the bunkers will be getting a make over also.</p> <p>Bill said that he wants to understand the course more and it would be good to have the greens committee meet with him and walk round the course.</p> <p>The current situation with the 11th hole and not being able to see properly due to the hedges was highlighted and Bill confirmed that that these are getting cut shorter soon.</p> <p>Bill also said that the markers need painting and refreshing which is also on the maintenance list.</p> <p>The problems with the scrub/hedges and rabbits was mentioned and following discussion it was suggested to use the 13th hole as a trial for trimming the lower sections of the hedges so as not to give the rabbits a place to hide. It was suggested that you may be able to get a contract to cull the rabbits.</p> <p>It was also noted that previously, green waste has been left around the course and Bill confirmed that any waste will be taken away.</p> <p>Robbie said that any trees felled will be logged to be used in the clubhouse.</p> <p>It was noted that many agreed the course is fantastic at present and that more improvements have been made than before. Investment in the water features are also going to improve the course and with this, hopefully, attract more members including juniors.</p>

	<p>Bill advised of very good feedback from Colchester Golf Club who visited recently when playing again the Vets.</p> <p>Bill also advised that the Greenkeepers shed will be enlarged to incorporate the new equipment and advised the arrival of two new Golf Pros to the club.</p>

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.