

FORRESTER PARK GOLF CLUB COURSE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday 25th October 2019.

Present; Craig Lockwood, Jeff Taylor, David Gillespie, Margaret Triston, Trevor Macdonald

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Matters Arising;

- A). Winter Rules are now in place, sign made for the course and committee boards by Kevin Myers.
- B). Jeff Taylor and Peter McBride to look into the new the new posts around the course.
- C). Trevor Macdonald has a small group of people who would like to help around the course, clearing ditches and clearing leaves.

3. Maintenance Issues;

- A). Green keepers report see attached.
- B. David Gillespie to give notice to sections regarding all members continuing to follow white lines and ropes to help protect the course.

4. Suggestions for improvements

- A). Reminder to all that suggestions can be sent in via email as well as putting into the suggestions box. Email craig@forrester-park.co.uk.
- B). Can we erect posts/ropes to direct traffic around the 17th and 8th. We will look into this but the hedges need to be trimmed to accommodate this.
- C). Can paths be filled/topped up- this is on the winter plan.
- D). Please can a sign be put by the 9th green/ 10th path to inform golfers that players could be teeing off from the 10th tee. Look into signage.
- E). Can practise net be repaired- Jeff to look into

5. Date of next Meeting; 6th December 2019 1:00pm

Greenkeepers Report

October 2019

So summer is a distant memory and so is a dry spell, with well above average rainfall for the month it brings a new set of challenges for us.

To help everything stay dry as possible we will be increasing our aeration regime to a monthly programme, to get as much water as possible moving through the surface and allowing it to stay as dry as possible. This is important not just for playing conditions but the health of the grass and not encouraging conditions that increase disease pressure. This time of year, you will also see us out spraying a lot more, it doesn't mean we are spraying scary chemicals but mostly turf hardening products, bio stimulants, natural pest deterrents and wetting agents. So far, things are holding up well with this chemical free approach and the greens are looking healthy and holding up well.

We have seen great improvements with grass coverage on the tees with the extra effort keeping them well irrigated, aerated and regular over-seeding and fertilising. We will again be moving the markers forward to protect the backs of the tees going into winter as this seems the most beneficial way to ensure minimum damage is done throughout the wetter months and taking note of suggestions to rope the backs off to prevent wondering, watching golfers.

With the recent sudden change of conditions we have started putting the white lines back out, ropes and hoops to control traffic to prevent wear around the more susceptible areas and where we require the best quality playing surface possible. Though a high percentage of golfers do adhere to this, it's blatantly apparent that there's a select few that have total disregard for the condition of the course and the damage they cause for all others. Though all other courses I've worked at restrict buggies, trolleys and general play depending on conditions, obviously here that isn't a factor so to keep things remotely acceptable it's imperative that we all try to be more aware of the reasons why traffic control is necessary.

We will soon be starting mole ploughing throughout the course and the verti-draining fairways. These are both very time consuming jobs and we will endeavour to keep things away from play as much as possible though sometimes it is inevitable to be working among golf, we would like to ask for all golfers to be patient and we will move to the side as soon as practical.

Thank you all for your understanding

Jeff Taylor
Head Greenkeeper

25/10/19