



Forrester Park Golf Club – Men's Section Committee Meeting

Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 19:00 via Zoom

Attendees:

Philip Yearling – Captain (PY)
Jeannine Beckwith – Secretary and Chair (JB)
Steve Barraclough – VETS Captain (SB)
Barbara Luxford – Ladies Captain (BL)
Paul Beckwith – outgoing Captain (PB)
Peter Waknell – Treasurer (PW)
Phil Prior – Competition Secretary (PP)
Kevin Royan – Handicap Secretary (KR)
Mike Manning – General Committee Member (MM)
David Gillespie - Greens Committee Liaison (DG)
Tim Forrester-Muir – Proprietor (TFM)
Leo King – Forrester Park GC (LK)

Apologies: Paul Kelly, Martin Gunfield.

Welcome and Introductions:

JB welcomed all committee members and attendees.

Review of previous minutes:

February Committee Meeting minutes approved.

1. Review of Action log:

	Action arising from 24-1-2020	Owner	Update
7.	Competition Fact sheets: a. Update to include a minimum payment of £14 b. Circulate final version to committee and PW c. Publish on social media d. Email to all men's section members Print and place on notice board and print and share with specific	JB JB LK LK PY/PW	Keep under review once competitions recommence. Discussed and all reported as OK save for 1 members account which remained in arrears. PY explained that the member was not currently playing, that he would cover the deficit from his account to resolve the issue.

	members as needed		Action closed.
9.	Cross sectional competition. a. PY to draft comp rules. JB to put on January agenda for review	PY JB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 4 sections • Pairs (from different sections) • Same format as winter league • Draw – arrange games themselves • Straight knockout • Set period between rounds • Bit of fun to bring sections together. <p>Advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website (Leo) • Emails • Section websites <p>In the main members will find their own partners but we can arrange a draw for those not in a pair who wish to play.</p> <p>PY to administer</p> <p>Dates for entry – start end April 2021</p> <p>Payment - £10 fees through the men's section (CCA or PW to come up with a handling process)</p> <p>PY and LK to arrange.</p> <p>Note: summer singles to go ahead as planned.</p> <p>See agenda item below.</p>
17	Move Easter Cup to 25 th April 2021	PP	Actioned and Closed
18	Updated fixture list to be placed on men's section website	DG	Actioned and Closed
19	Move Basildon Cup to 23 rd May 2021	PP	Actioned and Closed
20	LK to speak to Ted Higgs about date for Lee Higgs	LK	Leo reported that having spoken to Ted it was agreed to go ahead as planned – no lunch – he has just asked to play with the captain. Question raised about whether Ted planned on bringing guests – Leo to check. Action carried forward.
21	JB to check about caddies in Competitions with EGU if not included in comms	JB	Action closed – EGU confirmed.
22	Marquee to be reassembled before 12-4-2021	KR	Actioned and Closed

2. Lift, clean and place:

EGU have suggested a general extension of the preferred lies period to Sunday 16th May 2021. Discussed and agreed for all sections.

It was agreed that the second cut is at times hard to determine and it was agreed that if any concerns arise during competitions it can be resolved with the agreement of your playing partners.

3. Hole 2 as a call up hole off the whites:

PY has suggested this because there is often a queue on Sunday's and making the change will speed up play. All agreed but said signage is needed. **Action:** Leo to arrange proper signage.

In addition, it was suggested that committee members should lead by example and all to participate in making it widely known as practice for competitions.

Action: Leo to put banner on BRS when signage available.

4. Cross Sectional competition

PY and LK have discussed and extended the opening for entries to this. So far, we have nearly 20 pairs entered but would ideally like more.

Action: LK will resend the email and advertise again on social media.

General request - Can everyone please push?

BL mentioned that the Dixons have previously run something similar although it hasn't been running since prior to the pandemic.

The plan is to do the first-round draw for end May.

Entry sheets will be placed in the Marquee. Telephone numbers for contact will be shared.

5. Captains Update

PY reported that it has been a busy return, but it is great to be back.

One sour note raised in that PY has received several comments from members about the condition of the course and noted that other courses have appeared to cope better than we have.

Examples of concerns raised include, rock hard greens, tee boxes with hazard holes, grass browning off and a general view that all round games are being affected.

It is recognised that the work has been done but the concerns are genuine, and the course needs to improve.

In addition, there has been no communication about what is happening. Ongoing communication to members is needed on the plan for the course. It is accepted that we don't control the weather, but reassurance of a plan is needed and requested.

Action: TFM/LK

TFM reported the following:

- The greens were watered today, and they will be done again tonight.
- Conditions for April have been unusual, and the frosts haven't helped. Jeff has been reluctant to water, but he is on it now.

- Tee Boxes – a man who normally comes to shoot the rabbits hasn't been coming because of the pandemic. They are also no longer allowed to spray leather jackets which is causing issues on the greens. The committee stated that the holes in the tee boxes are a health and safety hazard and the club has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to keep its members safe. This is a current area of concern. TFM confirmed the holes were filled in this afternoon.
- The Leak on the 14th which has been there for a number of months is now fixed and the hole filled in today. There has also been a further leak close to Tim's house – The sprinkler system is working now. Jeff confirmed this morning.
- The sprinkler system is getting old. It is glued regularly but pops every year. This will continue to happen. TFM reports he is keen to spend money on it but to do so will mean reducing expenditure in other areas. When asked where, he stated in the bar, where he will be reducing staffing levels. He says he wants to spend money on the course.
- The committee asked if there was a plan to get the course back to standard? TFM confirmed that there is a written plan between TFM, Jeff and the Management Team. **Action:** TFM will share parts of that.
- It is stated that the grass will start to grow in May and regrowth will help the course to repair. The committee asked why, if grass is not growing currently, do the team spend so much time mowing? TFM reported that the team spend most of the day mending pipes, he has no control over the weather. He stated it was an aging system.
- The committee reiterated that the Club needs to engage with the membership and that currently communication is not reaching members. Communication is key. TFM's view is that Leo communicates all of the time, but TFM says he is listening and noting the concerns. He stated that he knows we are frustrated but again, cannot control the weather.
- PY reflected that what has been said doesn't appease anyone. People are seeing better elsewhere so it clearly can be done better than we are seeing here.
- The committee asked if the sprinkler system had been working in the last 6 weeks would it have been used? TFM responded by saying he takes the point – it wasn't working.
- SB asked how long would it take before the plan is crystallised and shared? TFM confirmed he would speak to Jeff and then make a statement through LK.

6. Competition update:

PP updated that since reopening there have been 4 Sunday competitions, 3 stableford and 1 medal. From the first 3 there were:

Participants	Unsubmitted cards
95	17
69	14
80	13

Question: should we be concerned by the number of un-submitted cards or are people just out of practice?

KR reported that he does try to pick them up and talk to those who haven't submitted to encourage. If people have played, they are charged unless they make contact directly.

Will keep under review but expect the number to continue to reduce. PW is also keeping a record.

PP asked how the handicaps per divisions were set. He noticed that:

Div 1 was 0-10, Div 2 was 11 – 17, Div 3 was 18 to 36

But noticed that this week it changed.

KR stated that may have been his fault for not checking the divisions explaining that medal one may have slipped through. **Action:** KR to review.

7. Treasurers Update

PW reported that the website link has been updated

Thanks to Roy Sayer for the £200 contribution of which 50% is going to Amy & Friends and 50% to Great Ormond Street. The committee thanked Roy for his generosity.

8. Any Other Business

SB asked TFM to confirm plans for staffing on a Wednesday once restrictions lifted given the earlier comment about reducing services to support course improvements. He stated that the vet's expectation is that they will have full access to club house, full menu and full staff compliment.

TFM responded by saying that they will hopefully get a level of service that is satisfactory. Sometimes on a Wednesday there have been too many staff on. There will be a slimming down. We need to survive, and it won't go back to normal.

JB commented that our membership hasn't changed to reflect a reduction in services. TFM responded by saying that the whole package is no longer sustainable.

JB asked why the marquee was being advertised as a club facility when it was funded by the members for the members. KR stated that it will be used by wider than just members and we need to take that on the chin. He has also agreed with TFM that if weddings want to use the marquee, they can make a charitable contribution.

PY's captain's day plans are underway. He is looking to sell all of the tee boxes for sponsorship. £250 and all money raised goes to charity. If anyone knows of anyone who wants to sponsor a hole please contact PY.

KR explained that from the marquee funding we still have about £400 left to spend and asked for ideas for how to spend it to benefit the members. JB to add to this to agenda for the July meeting. KR to pass over the funds to PW for putting in the club accounts. **Action:** JB/KR/PW

Date of next meeting

Sunday 25th July 2021 – 13:30.

Thanks all for time and for attending.

Meeting closed.

From		Action	Owner	Target Date
Feb 21	20	LK to speak to Ted Higgs about date for Lee Higgs	LK	Leo reported that having spoken to Ted it was agreed to go ahead as planned – no lunch – he has just asked to play with the captain. Question raised about whether Ted planned on bringing guests – Leo to check. Action carried forward.
Apr 21	23	Hole 2 as a call up hole off the whites: LK to arrange proper signage.	LK	

		LK to put banner on BRS when signage available.		
Apr 21	24	Cross sectional competition: LK to advertise again to all members All committee members to push to encourage entries.	LK/ Committee	
Apr 21	25	Communication needed to all members on the plan for the club in the coming months.	TFM/LK	
Apr 21	26	Plan for course to be shared with the committee ASAP.	TFM	
Apr 21	27	KR to check the divisional handicap levels set	KR	
Apr 21	28	JB to add £400 marquee funding to the July agenda. KR to transfer £400 to PW to hold in club account.	JB KR/PW	