



Forrester Park Golf (Men's Section) Committee Meeting on 7th February 2024 at 6.30pm at Forrester Park

Present: Kevin Royan (Chair) Mike Manning (General Committee)
David Gillespie (Greens Committee) Simon Harding (Treasurer)
Martin Gunfield (Captain) Bill Chapman (Forrester Park)
Andy Young (Social Secretary) Moir Gunfield (Minutes Secretary)
David Steel (Immediate Past Captain)
Apologies: Gary Huggins (Vice-Captain)

All Outstanding Actions

04.07.23 & 07.02.24	KR to ask the Vets and Ladies committee regarding the Marquee Fund surplus.
21.09.23 & 07.02.24	SH to move monies from dormant CCA accounts accordingly.
21.09.23	Committee to encourage members to be on rota for 'Starters'.
23.11.23	KR to write explanation of new handicap rules.
23.11.23 & 07.02.24	BC to review the set up and wording of membership paperwork to ensure it is clearer that there is no VAT added to the mandatory gold card payment.
07.02.24	KR to confirm playing times to Pete and Roy for the Daily Mail Foursomes.
07.02.24	SH to contact Ladies and Vets regarding payment of funds to Cancer Research UK and canvas them as to whether in future we should instead support a local Charity.
07.02.24	KR to source cup/shield for The Easter Cup.
Ongoing	DG and Greens Committee will review suggestions for viability, discuss and take to the club for discussion/implementation accordingly.
Ongoing	Bill and Committee to welcome new members.
Ongoing	ALL to use the wristband/tag system once it has been installed.
Ongoing	ALL to rake the bunkers and place rake accordingly.
Ongoing	SAGS/KR to review booking and report to club on a Thursday evening.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received as above.

2. Outstanding Actions

Marquee Fund – following discussion, Steve Barraclough proposed spitting the fund according to the various Sections contributions and the Men's Section percentage be put towards new boards the same as the Ladies and Vets boards. Seconded by Andy Young and all present were in favour.

Action: KR to speak with Ladies and Vets section for their approval and advise SH accordingly.

Dormant CCA payments – Simon advised that an email was sent (via Leo) to the people with dormant accounts offering to pay back or give to the current Captains Charity. Out of 20 requests sent, 8 replied and 7 agreed for their dormant payment to be added to the Captain's Charity. This is a total of £97.50.

Action: Item now closed.

Starters – this is not relevant until the Winter League ends and will remain on the actions outstanding list.

Handicap Rules – these have not yet been confirmed by EGU and Kevin will write an explanation when they are received.

VAT on the mandatory gold card – Bill confirmed that VAT is not added to the £150 mandatory gold card payment and will review how this is written on membership paperwork.

Action: Bill to review wording and set out of membership paperwork.

All other items are covered under the agenda.

3. **Minutes from Previous Meetings**

The previous minutes from 23rd November is on the website.

4. **Correspondence**

Kevin spoke about the Daily Mail Foursomes which is a free competition. All entrants need to be registered and due to the proximity of the start of the competition Pete Andrews and Roy Sayer were entered on behalf of the club having been registered previously. Kevin confirmed they will log in and he will sort out playing times etc. Kevin confirmed the match against Maldon on 02-03-24 and these will be behind the SAGS groups.

Action: KR to sort out playing times and advise Pete and Roy.

New Handicap Rules

Kevin confirmed that the EGU have not yet issued the new rules but there will be a lot of changes and it does mean all sections must comply.

Action: KR to analyse and advice necessary action when new rules received.

5. **Treasurers Report**

Simon handed out a summary of accounts confirming that funds not allocated stand at £1,084.81. This is down by £700.25 from 31/9/23 with the major difference of £500 being allocated for Captain's Support and £285 for Essex Union Golf Competitions.

Simon opened a discussion regarding the outstanding amount of £2,063.13 for Cancer Research UK which has been in the account for some time. This is an amount that is jointly raised by all three sections. Previously a representative from the Charity has attended a presentation at the Clubhouse but this has proven more difficult recently, so the current funds will be sent by cheque to Cancer Research UK. It was also agreed that Simon will speak with the Ladies and Vets regarding whether we look at supporting a local charity in the future and if so to see if they have any recommendations for consideration.

Action: SH to contact Ladies and Vets to see if they support change from Cancer Research UK to a local charity.

It was noted that a few members said they were not made aware of the increase to £5 for Sunday Competitions. They were advised that this was a committee decision, taken and presented to members at the AGM and formally agreed. Both sets of minutes have been available to the website for those who choose to review them.

It was asked if Simon is still having to chase people to ensure their CCA accounts have sufficient funds. Simon confirmed there is 6 to 7 each week, not always the same people and they are often thankful for being reminded. Simon confirmed he doesn't mind doing this on a small scale.

6. **Men's 2024 Programme**

Kevin opened a discussion on Shotgun starts, where the course is booked but if only 50ish playing the club are losing bookings etc. Discussion took into account the number of shotgun starts in the programme, the logistics, no of bookings, staffing support etc. It was suggested to have fewer shotgun starts and make more of the competition to attract more members to play and it was agreed that there will not be a shotgun start in March. The next one will be The Easter Cup and Kevin to look for a cup/shield that can be presented.

Action: KR to obtain a cup/shield for The Easter Cup – Shotgun Start.

Kevin confirmed that the final round of the Winter League will be 18th February and the

knockout draw will take place that day.

Kevin proposed that the next Stapleford is played and once all cards are in, split down the middle into two divisions and there be 4 prizes in each division. All present were in favour.

Martin suggested a 2 Man Texas Scramble on 24th March and all present were in favour.

There was a discussion on players not putting in their scorecards and in turn this is not fair to other members who regularly/always put their cards into 'HowDidIDo'. It was felt that part of the problem was the phrase 'should be putting in their cards' and this will be changed to 'must' put in their cards.

The discussion then focused on the course conditions, bunkers out of play and what constitutes as a 'qualifying' round for handicaps. It was felt that some of the problem was winter course conditions and winter rules such as pick, wipe, drop in the rough and pick, wipe, place on the fairway. Players are losing months of non-qualifying scores and this causes problems with not reflecting true handicaps. Kevin confirmed that the local rule for December, January and February in the rough is Pick, Wipe, Drop. This will continue to the end of February unless dryer conditions can mean stopping sooner. All sections should be playing by these rules.

Following further discussion, it was confirmed that from 1st March it will be pick and place on the fairway only plus winter rules. These rules can be found on the website and is rule E3.

Captain's Day

Captain's Day 2024 will be on Saturday 6th July.

7. Captains Report

Martin read from a report that can be found on the website.

8. Social and Fundraising Events

The next Music Bingo event raising funds for the Captain's Charity will be on Saturday 8th June. More information to follow.

There will be a Summer Celebration Event on Saturday 17th August. This will be a BBQ followed by live music. More information to follow.

9. Any Other Business

David confirmed that there have been 13 suggestions placed in the box for the Greens Committee to review. You can find a copy of the suggestions on the notice board. David confirmed that the Greens Committee will meet and review each suggestion, evaluate their suitability and discuss with the club accordingly. All suggestions will get a written response which will be displayed on the notice board in due course. If you completed the contact details on the suggestion form, a written response will also be sent to you.

Action: Greens Committee to review and discuss with club accordingly.

Bill spoke and asked if everyone had seen the recent advertising campaign on social media with a new membership offer. He advised that in 10 days we have had 4 new members. There was a discussion on how best to introduce new members to the sections and competitions etc., and it was agreed that Bill will give a committee member the new member details (with permission) to contact, introduce themselves and welcome them at the clubhouse etc.

Steve advised that the Vets welcome new people in the clubhouse to everyone after the Wednesday competitions.

Action: Bill and Committee to welcome new members.

Bill spoke about a login system for golfers. Different options were reviewed by Robbie and Bill. **Equipment to enable the new system to be introduced has been ordered and**

awaiting delivery. Once delivered the new system will be put in place. Each golfer will be given a colour coded wristband/tag that has a unique number associated to it. Members will be given a set colour and can keep their wristbands/tag, they can choose where to put e.g. on the trolley, wrist, jacket etc. Golfers are to scan this wristband before they play and again when they have finished. When any non-member golfer arrives, they will do the same process with an alternate colour wristband/tag that is handed back as the leave. This will also mean a golfer can be identified by the colour band displayed. If there are any issues on or off the course, it will need to be reported to club staff. This system is being implemented following many queries and comments from members being able to identify golfers that they have seen not abiding my club or golf rules.

Action: Once system implemented, it is ALL members responsibility to use.

This led to a discussion regarding a staff member being alerted to a situation such as bad course conduct. It was noted that a staff member will not always be available to attend on the course. It is acceptable if a committee member wishes to speak with the golfer(s) involved but not to get into any form of confrontation but instead, report to the clubhouse.

Bill advised the following:

- The base for the greenkeepers new building is nearly finished.
- The footings for the new building are being done.
- Hoping that the course will be re-rated later this year.
- Any bunkers that will no longer be in play will get filled in.

This opened a discussion about bunkers and golfers not raking them – it is not fair on golfers that are following you to discover the bunkers have not been raked. If You wouldn't like your ball being in a bunker that hasn't been raked, resulting in a poor lie. Have respect for your fellow players and ensure you rake the bunkers accordingly. Please also ensure that you place the rake outside of the bunker with the handle in line of play direction of the hole.

Action: ALL GOLFERS MUST rake bunkers accordingly.

Bill continued:

- There are several social events being put on and it would be appreciated if some were better attended. Many of these events give an opportunity to raise funds for all the Captain's chosen charities.
- Work has started on the 13th tee renovations.
- Work continues around the course on improvements before re-rating is done.
- In the summer, Thursday competitions will continue, and a Saturday competition is being organised.

Martin spoke and passed on how thankful members are to see the investment that is being made to the course, more staff and the clubhouse etc.

There was a discussion on tee time availability and spacings between October and March as there are limited daylight hours, especially for those members wishing to play on a Saturday. It was agreed that the SAGS Society will revise their bookings on a Thursday and notify the club to release spare times.

Action: SAGS/KR to review and advise club accordingly on a Thursday evening.

All the committee welcomed Steve Barraclough and Kevin asked if he would be interested in becoming the Competitions Secretary. Steve said that he would welcome this role with the tutorship of Kevin.

10. **Date of Next Committee Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 6.30pm in the Clubhouse.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.