Forrester Park Golf (Men's Section) Committee Meeting at 18.30 on 22nd April 2025 at PoW

Present: Kevin Royan (Chair), Dave Ayres (Vice Captain), Steve Barraclough (Secretary & Competitions Secretary), David Gillespie (Course Committee), Mike Manning (General Committee), Simon Harding (Treasurer), and David Steel (General Committee).

Apologies: Nick Snelling (Captain), Bill Chapman (Forrester Park) Martin Gunfield (Immediate Past Captain)

All Outstanding Actions

Ongoing	DG and Course Committee will review suggestions for viability, discuss and take to the club for discussion/implementation accordingly.
Ongoing	Bill and Committee to welcome new members: **Not working as well as it should be, please see comments in AoB: Action with Bill, Leo and the Committee.**
Ongoing	ALL to rake the bunkers and place rake accordingly – in the bunker
Ongoing	Summer Celebration ownership. Need costs for food & entertainment
Ongoing	Captain's Day: Nick & Bill - Needs costs for golf, food and pods
Ongoing	Men's Guest Day: Kev & Bill - Need costs for golf and food
Ongoing	Mens Website: Bill & Dave to discuss how we can make use of the clubs new website and supporting technology
Ongoing	Helping out on the Course - see AOB for details: Bill & Martin
Ongoing	Can the prize vouchers be used in the golf shop? Bill

1. **Apologies**
   Apologies were received as above.

2. **Outstanding Actions**
   Completed/obsolete items were removed from the list above.

   Updates:
   New Members:
   We need to ensure that the "welcome pack" given to new members sets the right tone, is friendly and gives the information a new member needs in order to be an active member of the club. We will review the contents of the current welcome pack and revise it accordingly.

3. **Minutes from Previous Meetings**
   The previous minutes are on the website and the notice board.

4. **Correspondence**
   None received

5. **Treasurers Report**
   Simon handed out the financial report at the meeting, which was reviewed and accepted. The Section is in a good financial position

   Martin to present the cheque from last years fund raising to the Essex Air Ambulance

6. **Men's 2025 Programme**
   All Competitions are progressing as planned, with 51 entrants in last Sunday's Major - The Easter Cup.

The sign up for the Summer Singles and Pairs Matchplay Competition is attracting a good number of entrants. The draw will be made in the coming dates. 1st rounds to be completed by the 1st of June, 2nd round by 1st July, 3rd round by 1st August, with the finals being played in September.

You must organise the dates that you play yourselves - failure to make contact with, or reply to your opponent's dates and messages will result you exiting the competition. You must offer two dates: one during the week and evening, the other at the weekend.

Pick & Place finished on 20th April 2025

The Jubilee Cup Team won their first round of their league

On not so happy news, both our Essex Seniors and Norman Plum Teams won their 1st round matches, but were disqualified on a handicap technicality. We are not happy and have expressed the same to the Essex Golf Union - but to no avail.

In the Leslie Wood competition, we lost 8.5 to 6.5 away at Stoke by Nayland on a very tough course.

Our thanks to all those members who have volunteered to play in these matches.

Bill stated that it is good news that the match-play competitions are being supported more this year. The teams played well and represented Forrester Park admirably, we all agree that it is a disappointing end with the ruling on player eligibility meaning we were excluded from the competitions. The club look forward to future team competitions and good results.

Men's Guest Day is on Friday 20th June. Bill and Kev to work out costs & prizes for members and non-members

7. **Course Committee**

No input received from the Men's, Ladies or Vets sections.

Nice to see the new 13th tee in play - place replace your divots if you take a chunk out of it!

It's depressing to see so many bunkers left unraked after someone has played out of them. On Sunday morning, the bunker on the left handside of the first green even had trolley wheels through it. If you see someone playing out of a bunker, and they don't rake it afterwards - call them out on it!

Course Condition:

The course continues to be in great condition for this time of year. The grass is a little patchy around some of the approaches to greens, but nothing major.

Divots - you must replace your divots. We are seeing "slabs" of turf divots being taken in the current soft conditions, and they are being left some 5 to 10 yards away from the divot, as people can't be bothered to replace them. Please don't blame the Green Fees or the Crows.. it's us members that need to take better care of our course.

Pitch marks - repair your own, then look for another one to repair.

Bunkers - Don't play your ball out of a bunker, then walk past the rake and not bother to rake the bunker after you - this activity is as annoying as hell, it's becoming more prevalent and basically shows no respect for your fellow golfers or the game of golf.

Additional input from Bill: We have now taken delivery of the top dressing which is now in the boxes on the required teeing grounds. Can all committee members encourage fellow players to fill their divots to help the recovery of the tees. The greens topdressing arrived today, we intend to carry out greens maintenance next week. Tuesday 29th the greenkeepers plan to spike, scarify and top-dress the back 9. Thursday 1st we will close the front 9 until 1pm to try to complete the whole 9 in the morning. The greens will take approximately a week to recover.

8. **Captains Report**

The Captain stated that he was still very happy. Although he does need costs for Captain's Day, Guest Day and the Summer Celebration, along with the cost of renting a Pod.

9. **Any Other Business**

Website:

Since the meeting was held, the Club has launched its new website. We will work with Bill to determine how we can create a new Men's website using the new technology that is available.

New Members:

The membership renewals were positive, unfortunately we lost a group who play on weekends which was unexpected, but overall the renewals were high. We have had over 40 new members already in 2025 and look forward to getting many more throughout the year, several of these new members are juniors, we could really do with some people to help run a junior section. I currently have two volunteers, we need at least two more, if you know anyone who may be interested, please ask them to get in touch with myself of Leo.

Helping out on the course:

Is it possible to have some soil/sand and seed mixed up so that members can go on the course in a buggy, specifically the 4th, and repair the countless unrepaired divots etc, We would then then go on to other holes also to try and repair as many as possible. Tom, (Head Greenkeeper) agrees, however we need to clear it with Bill. Would it be possible to get some signs about replacing divots in the areas where we are suffering the most?

Additional input from Bill: The idea to get members to go around and fill divots is a fabulous idea! We will instigate this and encourage it. Also, we could do with members to help tidy, collect and clear debris under trees, there are several areas around to course which require attention. I will get a greenkeeper to assist with this if members are happy to spare a few hours.

Abusive Behaviour:

As I am sure most of you are aware we had an unfortunate incident on the course last week where a member launched into a verbal attack on Nick Snelling, David Wright, Leo and myself. The member was refunded his full membership money on the day and asked to leave the club. We will not tolerate verbal abuse or threatening behaviour. If you ever hear, witness or see any form of bullying or abuse please let me know as soon as possible.

10. **Date of Next Committee Meeting**

The next meeting is booked for 18.30 on Tuesday 27th May at the Golf Club

Meeting closed at 19.40 hours.