

## **Forrester Park Veteran' Section Annual General Meeting.**

Held on: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Noon.

### **Minutes of the 2017**

The minutes were accepted as a true record by the members present.

### **Matters Arising**

One point was raised by Jim Sadler concerning one of the proposals voted on at last year's AGM.

The proposal was that 100% of monies returned to the Vets Section from the sale of Christmas Raffle tickets should be given to the Captain's Charity and not be split 50/50 between the Charity and Section funds as had happened for a past number of years.

Jim said that the vote to accept the proposal had been taken on the false premise that the raffle was registered with Maldon Council as a charity.

Peter Waknell the Main Club Treasurer stated after the meeting that this was not, in fact, the case.

Jim also said that as a result of this vote, sales of tickets to the members of the Vets had markedly dropped as had the Vets share of the raffle sales.

Jim said that due to the above facts he thought that a new vote should be taken on the original proposal. This was agreed by a majority show of hands from those present.

The original proposal was put to the members present and by a majority show of hands it was agreed that we should revert to the original arrangement of a 50/50 split between the Captain's Charity and Section funds.

### **Captain's Report:** Mike Donovan

The Captain said that unfortunately his year did not get off to the best of starts with the weather causing havoc with rain and snow, which meant the first ever cancellation of the golfing section of the Christmas 3 club competition and Lunch. He said that we also lost one of our Vets stalwarts in Bill Hymas, who will be missed by many of us but will always be remembered by our continuation of the yearly Bill Hymas Invitational Trophy against Harwich which is coming up soon.

The Captain said fortunately the weather did change in April and then we went to wall to wall sunshine. He said he thought that Jeff and the boys did a great job in restoring the course from the mud bath to a really good condition within weeks.

He said that although we had a really good win in the first round of the Essex Seniors Cup against Three Rivers, the draw in the second round was not kind to us with an away match against The Warren where we were well beaten.

The Captain said that he did try a Captain's Away Day this year which was a limited success. The numbers were disappointing but those who did compete felt that it was a really good day out.

The Captain then said it brought him to the friendly matches we have played this year, he said that these are really good days out, meeting like minded golfers from other clubs, who enjoy a day out playing golf followed by a great meal. He said he really would like more members playing in these games. He also said that some members in the past have said that they do not like changing and wearing jacket and tie after the game and went on to say that this coming year all our home games will

be smart casual and the games against Burnham sandwiches and chips with a beer afterwards, he hoped that this would encourage more members to enter.

The Captain said that lots of people had asked him recently whether he had enjoyed his year as Captain, he said that time flies when you are enjoying yourself and that this year had certainly flown by. He said that it had been a real privilege to represent the Vets' section of Forrester Park as their Captain.

The Captain went on to say that when you start as Captain you think what am I supposed to do now, well he need not have worried there was a lot of help at hand, which is where he had to start his thank you's.

He said firstly he would like to thank Tim and Annie for their great support and guidance throughout the year. We all spend a lot of time at this Club, maybe more than our wives would like, but it is like being part of a family and it is great credit to Tim and Annie for creating such a friendly atmosphere.

He also said that to run a club like this you need people you can rely on and Tim, I am sure you will agree, is very lucky to have Katie, Leo, Sally Paul, Matt and Jeff, who have all done a fantastic job this year. He said that when we have had visitors from other clubs, they have been genuinely complementary on the food and the condition of the course, so a big thank you to all the staff who have looked after us so well over the last year.

The Captain said and finally there was the committee who do such a great job. He said that all our games are arranged for us every week so that we can just come along and play our golf. He also said that there is the occasional hiccup when the Captain forgets the birdie balls or even his golf clubs on one occasion.

The Captain said that the committee all do a great job, with a big thank you to all of them. He also said that it seems wrong to pick out one person but that he must say a big personal thank you to Harry Whiteman for guiding me through the year, reminding me of my duties and acting as my counsel for any of the problems that arose, so thanks Harry.

Finally, the Captain said he would like to thank all the members, who have been supportive and kind to him over the past year, raising nearly £1500 towards his charity which is the same as the Ladies section, The Somerville Foundation, supporting young people and adults born with a heart condition. He said that he hoped that the members will give the new Captain, Steve, the same support over the next year and that he wished Steve all the very best and that he hoped that he enjoys his year as much as he had enjoyed his.

### **Treasurer's Report** Jim Sadler

Jim said that firstly he would like to thank Peter Gamester for undertaking the audit on the books.

He said that copies of the audited accounts for the section have been distributed around the room.

Jim said that a deficit of £513 had been incurred as a result of:

- 1 A significant reduction in the average number of entries for competitions, which have gone down from an average of 73 players per competition to an average this year of 59 players per competition.
- 2 The cancellation of 3 competitions this year compared to only 1 last year.
- 3 The loss of the contribution from the Christmas Draw.

This loss of revenue was partly offset by savings on sundries.

Funds have been returned to members by:

- 1 Paying out 53% of the competition entry fees in prizes and birdies.
- 2 By heavily subsidizing special events by waiving entry fees and paying for lunches.
- 3 Maintaining the annual subscription at £5.

Jim said that we finished the year with a members balance of £1,225, reflecting the deficit for the year and the continued managing down of the surplus by returning funds to members in the form of supported competitions.

He said that during the course of the year we have raised £1,726 for charity, £1,441 for the Somerville Foundation and £285 for cancer research.

Jim finished by saying that he would be pleased to answer any questions, concerning the accounts, from the floor.

#### **General Secretary's Report** Harry Whiteman

Harry said that the membership continues to thrive, with ten new members joining since the last AGM. He also said that we have however lost four members who have left mainly because they have moved from the area. The membership continues to hold steady at over 130 members.

Harry said that the Vets diary for 2019 has now been confirmed. Although arranging matches is still a lengthy process.

He also said that we still have problems getting members to put down their names for friendly matches, more so this year. He said our aim is to have a team in place two weeks in advance of the home fixture so that we can arrange the competition for the associated earlybird competition. On several occasions this year, he said we were still trying to get a complete team, days before the fixture.

Harry said that in order to make the event less formal, we have arranged all our home matches, next year, to be smart casual and the matches between ourselves and Burnham are to be such that after the game sandwiches and chips will be served, presentations made and then home. He said that all of these changes are to encourage more members to play, so please respond to our efforts.

Harry said that both Ron and himself have endeavored to keep the Vets Website up to date with the latest information that we received, of interest to the members and asked them to read it.

Harry also said that he would like to take this opportunity of thanking Geoff Pettitt and Dick Groves for offering to be trained as Senior Scoring Technicians, ( Card Collectors ) to be added to our small band of volunteers.

Finally Harry said that he would like to thank all of his fellow committee members, especially Ron for their help and assistance given him over the past year, it has been most appreciated.

#### **Acting Competition Secretary's Report** Ron Stovell

Read out by Harry Whiteman in his absence.

Firstly Ron said he apologised for missing this AGM because he was celebrating his 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with his wife and the dates of their cruise clashed with the AGM.

He said secondly that he would like to thank all of the committee for their assistance over the last year, he said that he was very grateful for their having taken over

following the sad loss of Dennis Morley, who did an excellent job as Competition Secretary and whose standards he had tried hard to maintain.

He said thirdly he would like to thank the 99.9% of the Vets members for complying with his instructions regarding the tick sheets and late entry and cancellation slips.

He said that there were still a few members who do not appear to read the instructions but that he thought we were getting there. He said that he put the instructions on these forms and the game sheets which are also posted on the web, for a very good reason and not for the sake of it. He said that if these instructions were complied with it makes doing the draws easier and also for Harry Whiteman who covers for me when he is away on holiday as for this year's centenary.

Ron said that however, he was very much enjoying the job. having also previously been Captain and Treasurer.

Ron said that once again he would like to thank all the members and committee and especially Harry who will be pleased when I return from my current holiday so that he can get back to his Secretary's job and leave him to do the competitions .

### **To Receive Proposals**

There were no proposals received for this year's AGM.

### **Appointment of Officers**

The nominations, which had been individually proposed and seconded, were:

:

New Captain	Steve King
Vice Captain	Ian Smith
General Secretary	Harry Whiteman
Competition Secretary	Ron Stovell
Treasurer	Jim Sadler
Committee Members	Barry Trickett Alan Wilson Eric Hoffman

The Immediate Past Captain would be Mike Donovan.

These appointments were proposed by Reg Brunt and seconded by Peter Cowley. The proposal was put to the members present and was passed by a majority show of hands.

These persons now form the Committee for the term to the next AGM on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

Jim Sadler said that Peter Gamester had agreed to continue in the position for future audits. The offer was gratefully accepted by the Committee.

### **Introduction of New Captain**

The Captain introduced the new Captain Steve King to the meeting and presented him with his official shirt, sweater and tankard.

In reply the new Captain Steve King started by thanking Mike and those other members whose encouragement had led him to have the honour of being Captain of the Vets Section.

His chosen charity for the year is Prostate Cancer UK and has been chosen due to having seen so many friends and fellow golfers suffer. He said he hoped that with the new Main Club Captain, Steve Brewington, who has chosen the same charity, we can make a difference, if not for our generation then for our children and grandchildren. He then thanked all members for their support for his drive in and for donating to charity prior to the meeting.

He then went on to talk about the momentous changes to the game including the new rules coming in January.

Steve stated that he wanted this year to be fun and fair. He explained why he felt so strongly about players not being fair with their handicaps a read a memo received a while ago from the Handicap Secretary as follows ( with Kevin Royan's permission ). 'The view of the English Golf Union is that you should submit all cards on a voluntary basis to give a true reflection of your handicap. The CONGU position is that when you score well below your handicap, it is against the spirit of the game not to submit your card. The best way to avoid controversy or arguments is to submit all cards when you play competitions or friendly games of more than one four ball, especially where small bets are involved.

To not submit more than three cards a year when you play every week is definitely against the spirit of the game and in my opinion cheating your friends, whom you play with, be it on their conscience. As for those who play with these people the simple answer is don't play with them and they will soon get the message.'

Steve then went on to thank all those members who had welcomed him and shown such kindness since he joined the club 10 years ago and that he had had such fun since. He said that the Vets Section is known for being friendly and that is why the membership is incredibly strong still. He said that he is so proud to be your Captain and hoped that all members will continue to support him during the year, including putting their names down for the friendly matches.

At this point the AGM ended and the members retired outside for the Past Captain's Putt Out and the New Captain's Drive In.