

Forrester Park Veteran' Section Annual General Meeting.

Held on: Wednesday 25th September 2019 at Noon.

Minutes of the 2018

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

Matters Arising

A point was raised by Trevor Macdonald concerning the vote taken last year, that the Vets allocated portion of money from the Christmas raffle, should be split 50% to the Vets Captain's charity and 50% to the Section funds. He said that following an all members Committee meeting held during the year, it had been agreed by the three Captains that the raffle tickets this year should have charity printed on them and that all proceeds should go to the individual section Captain's charity. It was put to him that the Vets Captain had no authority to agree to anything and that any decision had to be agreed by the Vets Committee, which it wasn't. A discussion ensued during which it was made clear, that the vote taken by the Vets members last year still applied as far as the Committee was concerned. The Committee will wait to see what is printed on the raffle tickets and take action appropriately.

Captain's Report: Steve King

The Captain said that It had been a real privilege to represent the Vets' Section of Forrester Park, as their Captain. He said that although it was not the year that he had hoped for that he had really enjoyed the position and all that goes with it.

The Captain said that he would not be recapping all that had happened during the year because this had all been set out in his previous reports. He said that however he would just say that we have had almost the best of the weather with just a couple of competitions and matches rained off and have had the pleasure of playing on a fantastic looking course. Not only the greens and fairways but also the removal, over the past couple of years, of unsightly hedges, has helped make playing a pleasure. The Captain said that the few green staff had done a wonderful job and that when the tees and a few other problems are sorted out we will have a course to be proud of.

The Captain also said that the downside of the year was losing Mike Chapman, such a wonderful young man, who smiled through his pain. He said that he would be missed. He also mentioned the fact that we have a large number of our members, who have struggled with illness and injuries and that it was nice to see that quite a few were back with us again. He wished all those that are still struggling his best wishes for the future.

The Captain said that this was a year of great change, to our game, with so many new rules coming in but that he believed that it was for the better. He said that we have certainly cut an average of 15 minutes off of our competition times and that it was due to all members adopting these changes so well. He said that we still get complaints of slow play and hopefully we will be taking some steps as we go on to improving this.

The Captain said that the new worldwide handicap system will be coming in next year but has been delayed until November. He said that he believed that this system will make things even better and fairer all round. He said that his USPGA handicap is

usually very close to his UK one but had the advantage of moving either way, a little quicker.

The Captain said firstly that he would like to thank Tim and Annie and their staff for their hard work and support throughout the year. He said that then there was the Committee, who all do a great job, it is such an excellently run section that where everyone pulls together to get things done, which makes it easier for each new Captain. He said that other clubs do not have this system. At Clacton for example, the Captain and Vice Captain have to do everything themselves. He then thanked the Committee for all the extra tasks that they had had to do due to his injury, particularly to Ian for being such a great Vice Captain, to Harry for the day to day running and advice when I needed it and to Ron for the unending phone calls and making the competitions go so smoothly.

Finally the Captain said that he would like to thank the members, who have given so generously over the past year, raising £2,054 towards his charity Prostate Cancer UK. He said that he had enjoyed playing with all the members and being their Captain and that the support that he had had for the friendly matches had been amazing, 58 individual members had put their names down for and played in the matches this year, which far exceeded his hopes. He said thank you all so much and that he hoped all members would do the same for Ian this coming year., he hoped that Ian would enjoy his year and stays injury free.

The Captain said that we are still the friendliest,, most welcoming section anyone could hope for and that he wished everyone, all the best for the future.

Treasurer's Report Malcolm Harlow

Malcolm said that firstly, he would like to thank Peter Gamester for auditing the books and give Jim Sadler a large thank you for managing the books over the past years. Despite what Jim has said in the past, it is quite a time consuming job.

Malcolm said that members would have no doubt noticed the new honour boards { which he said personally he thought look great }. He said at the time of purchase, the cost was £702, the then Committee contributed approximately half towards the cost, for which he thought the members should show their appreciation.

Malcolm said he would like to thank all the Committee for helping him through the first two months, which he said that he had thoroughly enjoyed

He then said turning to the accounts, that there was a surplus for the year of £317, income from competition entry fees was up (£723), and expenditure was also up slightly (£62).

Malcolm said that funds had been returned to members by:

- a) Paying out 50% of competition entry fees in prizes and birdies.
- b) Subsidising special events by waiving entry fees and paying for lunches.

He went on to say, that members have raised £2709 for charity, £2054 for the Captain's Charity and £655 for the Bees Charity.

Malcolm said that we have finished the year, with a members balance of £1542 (which includes the stocks figure of £668). This leaves a working balance of £874, which may seem excessive but you only have to have a free lunch costing approximately between £400 to £500 and it makes a large hole in the working balance.

Malcolm 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 Section continues to go from strength to strength, with new members outnumbering those leaving, the total membership still being about 136. He said that we have a large number of members who are not playing at present, due to a number of reasons but that Alan Wilson keeps a fatherly eye on their situation.

Harry said that the Vets diary for 2020 had been confirmed.

He said that during the year we have replaced the existing wooden fully filled honour boards with new modern boards which have room for winner's names to be added for many years into the future and that he would like to thank Barry Trickett for carrying out the initial work of tracking down a suitable supplier.

Harry said, that he thought that we were all sorry to see Jim Sadler , the Section Treasurer, leave but fully understood his reasons and wished him well for the future. He also said, that we thanked Malcolm Harlow for taking up the reigns and settling in so quickly.

Harry also said that he would like to thank our team of card collectors, who he thought were our unsung heroes, enabling our competition results to be compiled and posted every week.

Harry thanked Eric Hoffman for offering to organize the Sadler Shield team, in Jim's absence and Roy Valentine for organizing the Bill Hymas Invitational competition with Harwich.

Finally, Harry said that he would like to thank all his fellow Committee members, especially Ron Stovell, for all the help and assistance given him during the year which was much appreciated.

Competition Secretary's Report Ron Stovell

Ron said that firstly he would like to thank the Committee for their assistance over the past year particularly Harry Whiteman. He said in addition he would like to thank Dick Groves, who on several occasions had received his final starting competition sheet, sent by email to him on a Tuesday evening and taken it up for the starters on a Wednesday morning, when he had been on holiday. He also thanked all members who have undertaken the starters job to collect money from the playing members and the card collectors who have produced the results for the day.

Ron said that he had little else to say except for the following few points:

1) Ron said that while he had virtually succeeded in asking members not to cross their tick out when cancelling after entering their name on a tick list, 99% of members complying. He still had not members to simply put NO next to their name as specified in his guidance notes on the tick list and webpage. He said this greatly assists him when doing the competition draws. He said that unfortunately we do have several members who fail to adhere to his wishes but that he does have several specsavers vouchers to help with the visibility of his instructions.

2) Ron also said that he would like to reiterate that when a member completes the late entry/cancellation sheet would they please write their name clearly, preferably printing it, because he sometimes has difficulty reading it. He also said that when cancelling from a competition, on the sheet, by text, or email, it helps him if you could tell him your nominated tee time, because it helps him to quickly trace where you are, in order to remove you. The majority of members comply.

Finally Ron said many thanks, to all members of the Section for their assistance and co operation through the year.

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:

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New Captain	Ian Smith
Vice Captain	Peter Waknell
General Secretary	Harry Whiteman
Competition Secretary	Ron Stovell
Treasurer	Malcolm Harlow
Committee Members	Barry Trickett
	Alan Wilson
	Mike Donovan

The Immediate Past Captain would be Steve King

These appointments were proposed by Reg Brunt and seconded by Mike Manning
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 30th 2020

Appointment of Auditor

Malcolm Harlow 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 Ian Smith to the meeting and presented him with his official shirt, sweater and tankard.

In reply the new Captain Ian Smith started by saying how pleased he was to be Captain of the Section for this coming year. He said that he recognized that it was as much a social Section as a golf one. and that he would do everything he could to maintain the friendly atmosphere that we have.

He went on to thank the previous Captain Steve for all his hard work and of course thank the Committee for the immense amount of effort they put in.

The new Captain said that his charity for the year would be Brainwave which helps children with generic conditions, such as Down's Syndrome or Cerebral Palsy and has a centre in Witham. He said that they do not have any government funding and rely completely on donations. He also said that he didn't manage to get around to as many members as he would have liked, prior to the AGM but rest assured he would be after more money later in the year.

The new Captain said that he would try to be as fair as he could when choosing teams for the friendly matches, but would members please remember to volunteer for home as well as away matches.

He said finally, that as Vets Captain, he would work for the members and if there was anything worrying anyone and that they thought he could help, then he would do all in his power to do so.

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.