

**FARRINGTON PARK GOLF CLUB  
SENIORS SECTION AGM  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**ATTENDANCE**

As per list circulated at meeting (36 members)

**APOLOGIES**

Len Salter, Bill Sims

**MINUTES OF AGM 2015**

Accepted as true record – proposed Rob Thain, seconded Mo Dury

**MATTERS ARISING**

None

**CAPTAINS REPORT**

Mike Henton stated that the year had gone past very quickly and that it was gratifying to have led a section of 140 paid up members, he appreciated the support that he received from everyone and that he hoped that members had also enjoyed the year. He recapped on performances over the year; it was disappointing that we went out in the County Cup (Rosebowl) in the first round but reported that we enjoyed far greater success in our programme of friendly matches. We had been lucky with the weather with only one match cancelled due to rain and this was the one against Wellow. At home we had no losses with 16 wins and one half against Stockwood Vale. On the road we lost 11 and halved 3. Mike went on to thank those who had put their name forward for the matches and for the year we had 6 first time competitors. He went on to report on our entry into the Age Concern Regional Seniors Competition where we went through to win the competition and in particular he recounted the marvellous exploits of the final team of the five pairs competing at Oake Manor. We were in the Club house looking as though we were heading towards a half overall as the last team was out on the course dormy 4 down which would have lead to the tie but as the pair of Richard Dancey and Philip Michaels came up to the 18<sup>th</sup> green it was clear that the match was still alive with Farrington dormy one down. On the green, Richard Dancey was to the right behind a bunker with a short down hill run to the hole whereas the Minehead opposition had a relatively easy approach shot. Richard pulled off a terrific lob wedge shot to leave the ball dead and Minehead screwed up to leave the match all square and we were the over all winners.

Mike reported that for next year the matches will start at 11am rather than 12 noon with a few exceptions. He then went on to express his thanks to members of the Committee who had supported him through out the year.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Ian Clements produced a detailed Treasurers report which is attached with the minutes and then went through it in detail. Key points were that this was the first AGM when we had a complete years accounts to report on rather than the partial year as in the past. The accounts had been fully audited by Steve Cook and a signed certificate is included in the report. Ian reported that the accounts were in a healthy state - £5977 had been brought forward from last year and that our income

from the year was £25234 and expenditure was £26152 a loss of £917 on the year. We start the new year with £5059 and in so doing we had achieved the target of gradually reducing our balances over successive years. So far this year we have 142 paid up members and in discussion explained why there was a need to have a reasonable level of balances, ie., to pay some of the up front bills that come in for away days, trips etc. He did report that we had a very profitable Open Competition making £1367 but that this cannot be guaranteed every year. £1800 was paid into the Captain's Charity and a recorded £40 write off in the accounts was explained. The accounts were proposed by Bob McKeegan Brown and seconded by Jim Farmer and accepted unanimously.

### WEDNESDAY PROGRAMME

Ray Vickers reported that after many years we now had almost total compliance with the rules regarding cancellations and that this made his life so much easier. He also informed the meeting that as a result of the increasing number of members wanting to play on a Wednesday, he had successfully negotiated an expansion of the tee times available. So far this winter all winter knock out competitions are on time. On conclusion of his report Ray was thanked for his excellent work in supporting/organising our Wednesday Programme.

### APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Captain Dave Elliott Proposed Jim Farmer and seconded by Chris Liberty

Vice Captain Phil Thompson Proposed Rob Thain and seconded by Steve Symonds

Treasurer Ian Clement proposed Bob Earney seconded by Mike Hedges

Secretary Mike Hedges proposed by Rob Thain seconded by Phil Thompson

The remainder of the Committee was elected en-bloc and were:- Tony Clements, Ray Vickers, Rob Thain, Chris Liberty, Roger Stone, Mike Henton (Immediate Past Captain) Proposed by Graham Marsh and seconded by Ric Clark. An additional member had been nominated for the Committee – Alan Skivington – proposed Rob Thain and seconded by Ken Hutton – Alan's role will be to oversee IT issues for the section.

All proposals were voted in on a unanimous basis.

### INCOMING CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS

Dave Elliott thanked all present for their support and he committed to working hard in support of the section over the next 12 months and that he will be working hard with his Vice-Captain Phil Thompson. He congratulated the out-going Captain on his successful year in post and it was good to have seen the number of new players entering the section and getting involved in matches. David said that thanks to the efforts of the past Captains the section had gone from strength to strength and that he wished to play his part by building on this success. Speaking of the Open Competition he wanted to thank all members who either sponsored holes or persuaded local businesses to support us. He made particular mention of the work of Malcolm Brooks who managed to get six sponsors. Talking of the programme for the forthcoming year he said that we had some great friendlies coming up with the first two of the year coming close together on 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March. He said that he

would try and pick teams ten days in advance so that everyone had plenty of notice. He then reminded members of the 11am start times and in relation to match day food he was looking to try and ring the changes on the menu rather than have carvery all the time. He also recorded his thanks to the Committee and said that he looked forward to their continued support.

## **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Proposed rule change:-**

**Proposed by Steve Symonds and Seconded by Rob Thain.**

**“That when playing qualifiers from the yellow tees the tee box on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole should be the back tee rather than the forward(green tee) as at present”**

A long discussion ensued over this point and the vote on the change ended up with a vote stay as we are on a vote of 12 for the proposal and 20 against.

The general content of the proposal went as follows; the proposers and supporters felt that if we are to play a competition from the yellow tees then all holes should be played from the proper yellow tees. That to play the 13<sup>th</sup> from the forward tee spoilt their enjoyment of playing the full course as the challenge was reduced and that there was a perceived unfair advantage to those receiving two shots. It was also felt that the spectre of health and safety issues raised from the need for players to go down the slope in front of the tee was really a non starter as there were plenty of other places on the course where there are equal if not greater risks involved (eg down the slope on the 5<sup>th</sup>). In respect of those against the proposal, the major thrust was that as members get older the ability to make the fairway from the back tees gets harder and harder and in some cases means that there is an inevitability of having to go down the dip, it was felt this did create added risk and that it spoilt the enjoyment of the game. The distance from the yellow to the green tee was still within the permitted yardage for the fore shortening of a course and in fact the lower handicappers also gained an advantage from playing from the yellow tees as some would be able to go for the green in two. A compromise suggestion was made that those who wanted to play from the back tees could opt for that and in effect play a competition within a competition. An important point was made by Dave Elliott and Clive Stillwell to the effect that the important feature of the Section was that we were close knit, cohesive and corporate and to start to see split competitions or competitions within competitions would start to erode this cohesion. The vote was then taken with the above result.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Boyd Francis enquired as to the cost of playing in friendlies during the forthcoming year and Dave Elliott said that this was still in negotiation but that he was trying to get a reduction but at the minimum – no increase.

Clive Stillwell raised the issue of team selection for the Rose Bowl and in discussion Dave Elliott supported the view that we choose the team from members who also play in friendly matches and not do as some Clubs – bring out the super star low handicappers just for this competition. This approach received widespread support.

Bob Earney, referring to balances held by the section asked if the Committee would consider funding a weather shelter on the course for example alongside the 6<sup>th</sup> tee or even the 13<sup>th</sup>. To be considered at the next Committee meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT AGM**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

**Michael Hedges**  
**Honorary Secretary.**