

**Minutes of the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Forrest Little Golf Club**  
**Held at: The Clubhouse on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Chairman:** Barry Clifford

The Honorary Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and The Chairman declared the meeting open and welcomed the members present.

The Honorary Secretary confirmed that a quorum (40 members) was present. 95 members signed the attendance sheet.

A minute's silence was then held for all deceased members.

Apologies:- Paddy McGann, Sean Hannon, Eddie Ryan, Tom Keogh, Ciaran Bookey, Eoin Murphy, Ted Corcoran, Ciaran Phealan, Ciaran O' Brien, Tony McCormack, Willie Ryan, Tony Brabazon, Joyce Moran, Derek McCabe, Paul McGaley, Martin Hehir, John Weafer, Fred Dean, Joe McAleenan, Joan Maher, Peadar Lennon.

Adoption of Standing Orders as follows.

Speakers asked to come to the podium at the front to speak and to speak only once on any topic or motion.

The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, having been circulated in advance were adopted.

Proposed: Michael Denihan    Seconded: Harry Reilly

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Honorary Secretary's Report**

The Honorary Secretary's report, having been circulated in advance, was adopted.

Proposed: Joe Cummins                      Seconded: P.J Gunn

There were no questions arising from the Honorary Secretary's report

**Honorary Treasurer's Report**

The Honorary Treasurer's report, having already been circulated in advance, was adopted.

Proposed: Paul Keane                      Seconded: Liam McMahon

The Honorary Treasurer Gerry Healy went through his presentation to clarify aspects of the Financial Report.

Results for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 show an overall surplus of €33,000 compared with a surplus of €62,000 in 2015 .

This result although positive leaves us some way short of where we need to be. Cost savings have been made in almost all areas of expenditure and we continue to attract new members. But despite some great effort to recruit members we have lost a number resulting

in a net loss and a significant drop in membership income. It is important to note that the surplus does not include for capital loan repayments which are €60,000 per annum.

#### Highlights of the year

Operating expenditure down €38,000

Income down €65,000

Surplus €33,000

#### Operating Income

Total income was €727,000 which was €65,000 down on last year. Number of factors contributed to this. Membership numbers are down, the restoration of the loyalty back to €100, Green fees and societies down €9K and competition surplus down €14K

There was a small increase in general income of €3K.

#### Operating Expenditure

Total expenditure was €719,000 down €38K on last year.

Clubhouse was down €8K mainly due to savings in security, gas, and electricity. New agreements have been reached with gas and electricity suppliers which should result in further savings in 2017.

Course expenditure is our biggest cost heading. Costs of €309,000 are down €54k on last year. This is due in part to redundancy costs in 2015. Significant savings were made in repairs and maintenance to course equipment. There was a small increase in cost of sand, seed, fertilisers, etc.

Administration Expenses of €235,000 are €17K up on 2015. This is accounted for by increased office wages to replace Margaret while on maternity leave, insurance increase of €2,500 this year. (Insurances will increase by a further €5k in 2017, already invoiced) renewal of signs, and new computer for competition room.

General costs are up €6,000. Costs are similar to last year.

A summary of operating results over last five years. As you can see income is at its lowest. But we have managed to get our costs under control. There is probably very little we can do to further reduce costs without having a negative impact on the facilities we have to offer.

#### General

Even though works on 12<sup>th</sup> hole were completed last year costs are now included in 2016 accounts. Other capital works undertaken this year, refurbishment of back hall, works around 7<sup>th</sup> tee, upgrade of 1<sup>st</sup> tee box. Much of the above works have been carried out using our own course staff and a very dedicated number of volunteers which has helped to costs to a minimum. Total capital expenditure for 2016 was €19K. In the accounts the development levy of €44K is set against this leaving a surplus of €25k

#### Assets and Liabilities

Total assets were down €16K partly due to reduction in course stock of €4K and reduction in debtors of €12K

Liabilities were €1,146,000 down €40K on 2015

Bond scheme down €28K

Subscriptions in advance down €22K

Loan development and 5year down €62K

Cash in bank €11K in hand

Short term loan up €80K

Membership bond scheme stands at €178,000. €39,000 redeemed and €11,000 new bonds issued.

Because our financial year ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and our subscriptions received were for the 2016 calendar year, the accounts have to recognise that three months subscriptions (October – December) have been paid in advance. Also some members have paid some or all of the 2017 subscription. As a result €174,000 of this income was shown as a liability and not recognised as income. This is an annual adjustment.

The bank loan balance on development and 5 year loans is €562,000 and this will reduce by approximately €60,000 per annum,  
The short term loan will be repaid by April 2017

Conclusion.

The surplus of €33,000 should be viewed as a positive. We have managed to keep all costs under control and have made some significant savings in many areas, However it is imperative that we generate sufficient income to cover our capital loan repayments and continue to improve our course and club facilities.

We have great assets in Forrest Little Golf Club, our course, our members, and our staff. We need to let friends and family know what is on offer here and do everything we can to get them to join this fantastic club.

I would like to thank Paddy, Margaret, and Maria in the office for all their assistance during the year. I would like to thank our auditor Kevin Hampson of Hayden Brown I would also like to thank the Captains and committees for their support and I would like to say a special thank you to the rest of the finance committee, Maeve Duffy, Siobhan Garvey and Tina Shevlin.

Gerry invited questions of which there were none.

### **Marketing and Membership Presentation**

Theresa McMahon started by thanking the Marketing sub-committee and in particular Fran O'Prey and Vincent Collier for their efforts in the launch of the updated website. This is an ongoing project and the new design will allow us to make changes to our website more easily. Theresa also mentioned the ongoing Billboard campaigns which were successful during the year.

Theresa went on to present information about membership including details of the current offers and the critical need to address the imbalance in our membership. An analysis was done of various categories of membership and the turnover in those categories. Although we attracted 41 New members this year we also lost 98 (57 Suspense). So we need to continue to attract new members. Theresa also advised that when interviewing new members they are asked what has attracted them to Forrest Little. In addition to the fantastic course one of the most common responses was the friendly and welcoming attitude of members. Theresa also mentioned the vast majority of new members already know people in the club so we need members to continue to assist us in attracting new members.

Theresa finished by thanking her sub-committee of Sean Dooley, Tina Shevlin, Captain Vincent Collier and Liam McMahon for their work during the year.

Theresa invited questions:

Barry Murray asked if there was any analysis of why we continue to lose so many members each year.

Theresa started by explaining that the figures for this year were inflated due to the clear out of the informal "suspense" category. Members who, although they had not officially resigned, have not been paying their fees and are not communicating with the office have been categorised as "suspense". It was decided to formally remove them from our numbers this year. She then advised that exit interviews were held with all of those who formally resigned and the reasons for departure were, in general, cost, time commitments for those with young children and, for some, medical issues. Efforts were made to encourage as many as possible to come back with the various membership offers.

### **Course & Greens Presentation**

Paul Keane, Course & Greens Chairman gave a presentation updating members. Although Paul is retiring as Chairman of this portfolio this year he confirmed he is happy to continue to support our Greenkeeper Geoff and will continue to be involved in some projects in which he has particular interest. Paul thanked the various volunteers to continue to support the greenkeeping team and explained how all help, however, small is very much appreciated. Paul also mentioned how one small project taken on during the year led to further projects and emphasised that in doing a small thing and it snowballed to a large thing.

Paul invited questions:

Andy Crowe asked Paul to expand on a comment on one of the slides about subcontracting cutting rough Paul explained that in Sept/Oct we contracted out this task as it was a busy time and for various reasons greenkeeping staffing levels were low. Paul advised that we continue to look at the cost effectiveness of various aspects of course management.

Martin Kelly mentioned that with more people leaving than coming, and other sports like cycling and running etc becoming more popular, we need to investigate outsourcing. Our costs seem to be at the upper end and if outsourcing works for the biggest companies in the world we can't afford not to investigate it. Martin requested a Feasibility Study for pros & cons be carried out as even those in the race to the bottom on membership fees aren't getting members.

Barry Clifford advised the members that we have recently received a CGI report which covers several topics and the incoming council will undertake a detailed review of same. Barry also advised that we had some staff changes during the year and the incoming Council will be looking at all options.

Joe Cummins said he was disappointed with the condition of fairways during 2016. He felt Tee boxes had also dis-improved. Joe was also disappointed with unfinished bunkers and felt more planning should have gone in at the start of the year. He suggested we should have some bunkers closed while others being worked on. He also felt that starting work on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee in winter was a mistake and it was impossible to create good quality in such circumstances. Joe said the course is the thing that will encourage members to come and we must make sure we look after it.

Barry Clifford advised the Council are conscious that the course is our biggest asset and confirmed it is always given priority.

Andy Crowe asked about the use of temporary mats. He advised they are very old and in bad condition. If someone were to slip we might have an expensive claim and the mats themselves aren't expensive so we need to invest in new ones.

Paul Keane advised the mats cost c €400 each and we have 4 new ones ordered. We only use 7 at the moment.

Barry Murray felt we need to exercise caution with regard to outsourcing. He said we should make sure we keep control of our most valuable asset.

### **Election of Officers and Council Members**

Captain	Michael Denihan		
Proposed:	Vincent Collier	Seconded:	Harry Reilly
Lady Captain	Joyce Moran		
Proposed:	Brid Snow	Seconded:	Ann Cummins
Honorary Secretary	Peter Reilly		
Proposed:	Padraic Robinson	Seconded:	Michael Denihan
Honorary Treasurer	Gerry Healy		
Proposed:	Michael Denihan	Seconded:	Vincent Collier

All deemed elected on a show of hands

### **Council members (4)**

#### **Nominee**

Peter Duffy  
John McCarthy  
Theresa McMahon  
Barry Murray  
Padraic Robinson

#### **Proposed:**

Sean Hyland  
P.J Gunn  
Paula Shearan  
Dominic Duggan  
Barry Clifford

#### **Seconded:**

Padraic Robinson  
Michael Denihan  
Brid Snow  
Brian Dooley  
Ray Gegan

As there was 5 nominees for the four positions voting slips were handed out. Four scrutineers were selected Donal Hampson, Martin Kelly, Niamh McMahon and Paul Keane. Elected to council were Peter Duffy, John McCarthy, Theresa McMahon and Padraic Robinson.

Barry Clifford thanked all of those who put themselves forward for Council for their interest.

### **Election of Auditors**

Hayden Brown were Proposed by Gerry Healy and Seconded by Michael Denihan  
Approved on a show of hands

### **Notices of Motion**

Motion No 1

#### **AMEND Rule 4.5.3 to read**

**Junior Members** are those Juvenile Members who on reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are eligible subject to council approval to transfer to this category on 31<sup>st</sup> December following their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Junior Members may not attend any General Meeting of the club or of Forrest Little Ladies or Men's Golf Clubs. They may play in Club competitions under conditions determined from time to time by the Council. They are elected annually to the Junior category and unless elected to another category of membership they shall cease to be members of the club on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December following their **26<sup>th</sup>** birthday.

The Council shall have the power to elect, as Junior Members, applicants for such membership who are: -

- (a) Sons or daughters of members or of Lady Associates and who are in full-time students at a university or college at half of current entrance fee,
- (b) Other applicants, whose standard of golf and general conduct, in the opinion of the Council, warrant election at half the current entrance fee.

A Junior Member shall, at the discretion of the Council, be entitled to remain a Junior Member until he/she attains the age of **26 years**; Provided that the Council may, where it is satisfied that the circumstances so warrant, terminate such membership by giving notice in writing to that effect to any Junior Member

The Council shall also have the power, at the written request of a Junior Member to elect such member with or without payment of a reduced entrance fee to any category it deems appropriate, and for which such a member is eligible should a vacancy exist. Junior Members who have already paid half then current entrance fee under rule (a) or (b) above will have deemed to have paid such entrance fee.

Proposed: Theresa McMahon  
Seconded: Sean Dooley

### **Carried on a show of hands**

Motion No 2.

#### **Amend Rule 4.5.3.1 to read**

**Intermediate Membership** is open to all Junior Members who on reaching their **26<sup>th</sup>** birthday are eligible subject to Council approval to transfer to this category on 31<sup>st</sup> December following their **26<sup>th</sup>** birthday. They may play in Club competitions under conditions determined from time to time by the Council. They are elected annually to the Intermediate category and unless elected to another category of membership they shall cease to be members of the club on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December following their **32<sup>nd</sup>** birthday.

The Council shall have the power to elect as Intermediate Members applicants for such membership who are: -

- (a) Sons or daughters of members or of lady Associate and who are in full-time students at a university or college at 50% of current entrance fee
- (b) Other applicants, whose standard of golf and general conduct in the opinion of the Council, warrant election to such membership on payment of 50% of the current entrance fee.

The Council shall have the power, at the written request of an Intermediate Member to elect such member with or without payment of a reduced entrance fee to any category it deems appropriate, and for which such a member is eligible should a vacancy exist. Intermediate Members who have already paid 50% of the then current entrance fee under rule (a) or (b) above will have deemed to have paid such entrance fee.

Proposed: Theresa McMahon  
Seconded: Sean Dooley

Adrienne Timmons asked for clarification on whether someone can join as an intermediate up to age 32. Theresa confirmed they could. Adrienne then asked how many of our current

members will be affected. Numbers are – next year 2, then 6 then 3. A cost analysis was done and it is expected this amendment will help us to retain members rather than lose them altogether.

Siobhan advised she supported both motions, however, she sought clarification on whether a current member could, by extension of the age range, revert to a different category of membership. And if so how many might be affected. Theresa confirmed that a current full member who by extension of the age range could revert to Intermediate. She also advised we currently have 8 full members who would be eligible to revert to Intermediate if this proposal is adopted.

### **Carried on a show of hands**

Motion No 3

To allocate €25 from the €100 loyalty card scheme to Subscriptions in order to offset the increase in Insurance Premium costs.

Proposed: Gerry Healy  
Seconded: Vincent Collier

### **Carried on a show of hands**

Motion No 4

I Propose that the marker tree on the right hand side of the 8<sup>th</sup> hole, the marker tree on the left hand side of the 10<sup>th</sup> hole and the marker tree on the left hand side of the 16<sup>th</sup> hole be removed.

Proposed: Ken McCabe  
Seconded: Eddie McCabe

Paul Keane responded that he objects to this Motion. Paul agreed we need a tree management plan and proposed the incoming Course & Greens Committee look at all trees on course, analyse their value to the course and report back. Paul didn't agree with acting at AGM on issues like this.

Joe Cummins advised each of the trees mentioned would be valued at in excess of E1,000 should we be trying to buy them now. When originally planted they were all positioned in the rough as markers and as such should not cause too much interference as the idea is to stay out of the rough. The particular trees mentioned in the motion are on our Index 1, 4 & 10 holes and Joe suggested we shouldn't jump into a decision at the AGM to remove them but as they can be pruned, maybe we should consider raising the base to allow players to play from under tree.

Joe Fitzpatrick advised he was here when they were planted and in his opinion they are an integral part of course and they should be left as they are.

Barry Clifford said Course & Greens Committee will look at reviewing Marker Trees next year.

### **Not passed on a show of Hands**

## **General**

Barry Clifford gave an update on discussions with the DAA. Both Barry and Vice Captain Ray Gregan have been meeting with the DAA on a monthly basis. Work will commence on the Practice Ground in the next month and our greenkeeper Geoff met the DAA last week to set out the work. It is expected that work will have been completed by May/June when the DAA will hand us back a large portion of our practice ground. It appears we will not lose as much as first thought. The DAA has set up a Community Fund/Scheme to compensate locals affected by the new runway. Although we don't qualify for any grants available as we are not private residents, Hon Sec Padraic Robinson submitted a request to the DAA and we are continuing with discussions with them in this connection.

## **AOB**

Outgoing Captain Vincent presented incoming Captain Michael with his Jacket and tiepin. Vincent thanked all members for their support during the year and he felt it was a great honour to represent the Club. Vincent also complimented the outgoing council for their tremendous work.

Michael Denihan was delighted, and honoured, to be elected Captain and hoped to do justice to the role. He hopes to count on the support of all members. He offered his congratulations to all committees and to the Council for their work in 2016. Michael offered commiserations to Barry Murray but advised that they will find something for him and any other member who wishes to help out to do.

Brid Snow thanked Presidents Harry and Rita and all of the council and wonderful committees for all the work put in during the year. Unfortunately incoming Lady Captain Joyce was unable to attend due to illness and Brid wished her a speedy recovery.

Garry Dempsey then performed the Prize Bond Draw. The Bond Scheme helps a lot. It reduces our interest and debt, and there are still some Bonds available if members would like to participate. Prizes each year are subject to the number of bonds purchased, these are subject to review every year. This year will be same as last year. 1<sup>st</sup> number out will get 1<sup>st</sup> prize

### **The winning bond numbers were:-**

<b>Prize value</b>	<b>Bond No</b>
€1500	151
€600	84
€400	19
€100	183
€100	267
€100	51
€100	213
€100	218

The meeting closed

Padraic Robinson  
Honorary Secretary