

Forrest Little GC - Honorary Secretary's Report 2017

The golfing year in Forrest Little started off slow due to the poor weather conditions up to and including March with several competitions being cancelled and playing numbers down. Thankfully the golf numbers improved as we moved into spring and summer and the continued support for Midweek, Open Singles and Senior competitions were quite strong particularly during the summer months. The Wednesday numbers playing has remained steady with the evening times particularly popular. We did finish the year with a healthy net surplus.

A huge thanks to the members who continually sponsor the weekday and weekend events.

The competition committee did see team numbers for some 3 and 4-man team events were not well supported for a few reasons and this will be considered for 2018.

Thanks to all members who took part in our Gardener's Scrambles by giving up an hour or two of your time in the evenings to help improve playing conditions for all our members.

Our Teams started off well in some Inter Club competitions with some great momentum generated, sadly it failed to deliver any pennants but we have high hopes for 2018.

Men's Section Team Highlights 2017

Snooker Team

Our snooker team were not as successful as 2016 and endured a tough start which saw them lose nine out of the first ten games on the pink/black ball. They finished strongly including a victory over the eventual winners St Anne's but were unable to catch up to make the semi-final playoffs. All is not lost as this result will see them well handicapped for the new season. Thanks to Derek McCabe (Snooker Manager) and all the snooker team for their dedication to practice and the matches.

Golf Team Coordinator/Managers

The 2017 golfing plan for our teams kicked off early and was held in Forrest Little in September 2016 with a full attendance of team-managers. The plan was to start earlier with more time for preparation and to put some key plans in place early. Captain Michael hosted the evening and we received great feedback from those present on the previous year's performances and how we could improve going forward into 2017.

We endeavoured to introduce as many recommendations as we could, beginning with the Winter League where we introduced a foursomes competition in the later stages, and this proved to be a great success, with members getting an opportunity to play in this format.

We had a mixed bag of results and performances throughout the year with the inter club teams. There were some teams who progressed well during the earlier rounds of competition. Unfortunately we came up short towards the later stages.

We are very thankful to all team managers and players who put themselves forward to represent Forrest Little this year. We will go forward into 2018 with great confidence with both team managers and players. There can be no doubt that success is within our reach.

We would ask all members interested in playing for one of our teams next year to put your name down on the relevant team sheets displayed on the board in the Pro Shop when they appear.

It's Tommy's last year as Golf Team Manager Coordinator we thank Tommy for all his hard work, dedication and drive over the last 3 years and wish all the new managers and teams the best of luck for 2018.

Handicaps

The handicap committee was made up of handicap secretary Michael Timmons, and committee members Barry Murray, James Shevlin and Sean Hyland.

Michael would like to thank his committee for all the work and time they put in during the year helping him look after the handicaps of our existing members and in setting up handicaps for the many new members who joined this year.

We held monthly meetings to deal with ongoing reviews of member's handicaps and many individual performances have been looked at. Players handicaps were adjusted after appropriate approval of the GUI.

The handicap committee met in November to do the Annual review of handicaps for 2017. We examined the computer analysis report generated by Club Systems which is for single competitions only. We also looked at player's performances in team events and qualifying events held in our club during the year. Scores reported on Golf-net and golf societies have also been checked. Based on all this information our proposed handicap adjustment recommendations have been sent to the GUI for their approval.

Some problems arose this year, one was with our IT system which gave trouble on a few occasions. Our sec manager Sean had these problems rectified. Another problem that seems to be on going in our club is the number of players who do not return their scores into the computer for qualifying competitions, other than causing problems for the competitions and handicap committees it has influenced the standard scratch for these competitions and may have unnecessarily resulted in players losing shots where otherwise they may not have if all players returned their scores. Notices will again be put up around the club regarding this matter and hopefully there will be a positive response next year. If this problem persists next year action will be taken against those who continuously fail to return their scores.

Once again, many thanks to the handicap committee for all their hard work and time, also a big thanks to Paddy and his competition committee for all their help during the year.

Well done Michael & Team.

Competitions Report

All competitions were well supported in general throughout the year. We started off the early part of the year with another very successful Winter League which again proved to be very popular with members, with success going to the Stokers team captained by Sean Hyland. The success of this competition would not have been possible without the great work done by the competitions team and the captains of the teams who collated the scores on Monday evenings.

The poor weather in December, January, February and March as with the previous year unfortunately resulted in several competitions being cancelled. The cold weather also effected the numbers playing in competitions which went ahead. However, support for Midweek, Open Singles and Senior competitions were quite strong particularly during the summer months. Along with the bank holiday weekend Open events these competitions are significant for the Club, particularly in a very competitive environment. We are again extremely grateful to Brother International for their generous sponsorship of the annual Brothers Four ball. The event this year was their 44th year of support for this popular event .

Many thanks are due to, Frank McPhillips, Peter Duffy, John Donnelly, Mark Murphy, James Doyle, Sean Dooley, Tom Curran, Peter Murphy, Michael Kearney, Jason McDonagh, Myles McDonagh, Sean Hyland & Simon Fitzpatrick and to Michael Timmons on the handicap committee for the excellent job they have done in completing and posting results after each competition. We are very grateful to them for their hard work and dependability all year.

Thanks also to our Pro Tony, his wife Susan and all their staff for their administration of competitions through the Pro-shop.

We are extremely grateful to the many members who continued to sponsor Wednesday competitions. Special thanks also to those groups of members who club together to sponsor a Wednesday. Frank McPhillips did all the hard work as always on Wednesday competitions organising prizes and cards. Wednesday evening invitational singles competition, which runs from April up to mid-September, still proves to be very popular with members & their guests mainly heading from work, and overall numbers playing golf in Forrest Little on Wednesdays has been steady.

Congratulations to all the prize winners throughout the year. To those who failed to make the winners circle in 2017 we wish better them luck in 2018.

Paddy is stepping down from his role as Competitions Secretary after 3 years we thank him for all the hard work and many days and evenings spent in FL making sure all competitions run smoothly, dealing with any challenges and always being here to assist our Captain and other Committee members during the prize giving days/nights.

Juvenile's Report

Paul Sullivan found it a great honour to be asked to take on the role of Juvenile Convenor in 2017 and to manage the team. He has really enjoyed working with his team and would like to thank Tony, Susan, Margaret and Sean for their support, the committee for their guidance and of course John for sharing his wealth of experience.

Our Juvenile year got off to a flying start with our team reaching the final of the Fingal Junior Foursomes at Easter in Portmarnock Links, only narrowly losing to Donabate we also reached the second round of the Under 15's losing by a mere point to Westmanstown. We participated in all Juvenile competitions during the year and had a strong finish in the Fingal League. Well done to all involved.

Looking ahead to 2018 , our main objective is to increase the number of Juvenile's in the club. This is important as the young people are the future of our club. We hope to increase the numbers by encouraging the Juveniles to get a buddy to join and by talking to other clubs who have successfully recruited new members. More members will mean more success in the Juvenile competitions in the future.

We will be introducing new Juvenile Medal competitions commencing next July which will invigorate our current Juveniles and appeal to new members. Another item for discussion is the idea of having a Juvenile Open Day next Easter again to increase Juvenile numbers.

Along with the recruiting drive for new Juvenile members we will be on a recruitment drive for help and support from you, the existing members to help manage the Juvenile teams in assessing the golfers, select teams and in all that is involved with the boys. Any help and support would be gratefully appreciated - please contact Paul Sullivan on (086-2584633).

Our Juvenile fundraising day took place in the summer and was a great success. I would like to thank everybody who played and supported this event in any way. Special Congratulations to Paddy Quaid on winning 1000L of home heating oil kindly sponsored by Access Oil.

Finally, I would like to thank our outgoing Juvenile Captain Aaron Donnelly for all his hard work and support during 2017 and we wish him well in his golfing future. Congratulations to our new Juvenile Captain Darren Daly and I look forward to working with him in 2018.

Well done Paul and team and best of luck for 2018.

General

Ray Gregan and his team of volunteers continued to make some significant enhancements to our course in 2017 and carried out many clean and tidy up operations. Their work included the addition of our new replacement FL competition signs/noticeboard/course conditions on the 1st Tee box, works to put in path & buggy area to the left of the 8th tee-box, sanding of bunkers and the nice feature of adding stones around our tap areas. They also helped greatly in tidying up the course and removing fallen Trees and debris from the storms we had early in the year and latterly Ophelia and Brian.

We are very grateful to Tony Judd and his staff for their assistance throughout the year in running competitions, coaching member's, his advice and support to Teams and Team Managers...etc.

I would like to thank the Jeff and the course staff for their continued commitment to presenting the course at its best given some of the many challenges we faced not least with varied weather conditions over the year.

Thanks to all members who took part in our Gardener's Scrambles by giving up an hour or two of your time in the evenings to help improve playing conditions for all our members.

I would like to thank and commend all members of the men's committee; President Harry Reilly, Captain Michael Denihan, Competitions Secretary Paddy McMahon, Handicap Secretary Mick Timmons, Hon Treasurer Gerry Healy, Paul Sullivan our Junior/Juvenile Representative, Tommy Dennis (Team Coordinator) and all the members of the sub-committees for their hard work and commitment during 2017.

I would also like to thank Sean and Margaret in the office for their support during the year. It has been a pleasure to work for all our members and with this Men's committee in 2017 as Hon. Secretary, I wish my successor all the best for 2018.

Yours Sincerely,
Simon Fitzpatrick

Honorary Secretary
Forrest Little Men's Club

The main prize winners in 2017 were:

Captains Prize	Derek McCabe
Presidents Prize	Alan Leahy
Golfers of the Year	Paddy Higgin's & Jack McDonnell
Gross Golfer of the Year	Jack McDonnell
Club Cup	Tony Gaynor
Club Four ball (Allshire)	Dean Mulligan & Andrew Murphy
Club Foursomes (Hamill)	Michael Kearney & Gerry Healy
Club Mixed	Barry Murray and Adrienne Timmons
Tony Judd Professional Prize	Brian Smyth
Open Junior Scratch Cup	Declan O'Donoghue
Open Senior Scratch Cup	Jack McDonnell
Open Intermediate Scratch Cup	Finn Sullivan
Senior Scratch Cup	Sean Broe
Junior Scratch Cup	Paddy Higgins
Intermediate Scratch Cup	Sam Carpenter
Minor Scratch Cup	Dominic Duggan
March Medal	Ciaran Phelan
April Medal	Tony Maher
May Medal	David O'Connor
June Medal	Shay Lacey
July Medal	Tony Gaynor
Aug Medal	Pat Murphy
Sep Medal	Noel Kelly
Oct Medal	Jason Hardiman
Seniors Medal	Jim Grimes
Grasshopper Cup	Donal O'Hara
PGA Tankard	Conor Lyons
Vice Captains Prize	Michael Matthews