

Forrest Little Golf Club – Honorary Secretary’s Report 2017

Drive in

We started the year with the Captains Drive in early January and both Michael and Joyce looked splendid in their black and white outfits to signify their support for the “Darkness into Light” positive mental health campaign. They were also joined by our 2017 juvenile captains Shannon Mohan & Aaron Donnelly. A packed clubhouse danced the afternoon and evening away entertained by the fabulous Long John Jump band. A charity walk was arranged for April 1 with all proceeds raised going to the Jigsaw Charity to help promote positive mental health. Forrest Little raised €3455 for this Charity.

Council

The Council have met 12 times this year and comprised of Captain Michael Denihan, Lady Captain Joyce Moran, Chairperson John McCarthy, Honorary Secretary Peter Reilly, Honorary Treasurer Gerry Healy, Course and Greens Convener Padraic Robinson, Membership & Marketing Peter Duffy & Theresa McMahon. Vice Captains Ray Gregan and Laura Dooley also attended Council meetings to ensure they were fully up to date before coming into office in December. Presidents Harry & Rita were great ambassadors for the club across their two years in office.

Events

Membership of this golf club is not just about the game of golf and our Events Committee, Chaired by Maria Robinson & Martine Denihan, showed that again in 2017 with various special competitions and social gatherings. Events provide members an opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere and allow us to invite our wider group of family and friends to enjoy our facilities. Some of the notable occasions hosted by Events are - The Captains Drive In, St Patrick’s Day, the Classic, Independence Day, Captains and Presidents Prize Nights, Family Team Event, Captains Dinners, Children’s Christmas Party and of course the very successful 9 & Dine Friday Nights during the summer months.

Inter-Club Teams

The team managers met in September 2016, analysed the 2016 performance and gathered the lessons learned. Many recommendations were brought in this year beginning with an earlier Winter League and foursomes’ match play for the later stages.

Over the year we had a mixed bag of results and performances within the inter club competitions. The Barton Cup & All Ireland Fourball teams progressed very well to the fourth round in both cases before losing to eventual Leinster finalists. The Pierce Purcell team led the qualifying by 12 shots only to fall at the first match play hurdle. We are very thankful to all team managers and players who put themselves forward to represent Forrest Little in 2017. We will look forward to 2018 with great confidence in both team managers and players.

A special thanks goes to Tommy Dennis for their considerable time, efforts and dedication to this cause throughout the year.

Course & Grounds

We would like to thank Geoff Scott and his team for their continued commitment to Forrest Little. Well done to Padraic Robinson and his subcommittee for their contribution to the course. Our on course volunteers have been instrumental again this year in assisting Geoff and his team whenever and wherever needed. They were out helping with the cleanup after Storm Doris & Brian as well as Hurricane Ophelia. They used the storm debris to reinforce some gaps in our boundaries. Another joint effort with volunteers saw a new pathway constructed beside the 8th tee box. We also closed eight bunkers in September & October as planned and more work continues as our second year starts on our bunker renewal programme. We thank the members for their patience during this critical work which we are trying to complete in the most cost effective manner. Our team of gardeners who regularly attend to weed and tidy around the clubhouse carried out tremendous work through 2017.

Over the year there has been some activity on the course by intruders at night time. Flags, rakes, cups, markers, ropes and hoops have all been taken and the 8th tee damaged.

We have now invested in a new cement water tank reservoir which holds 120k litres of water to the right of the 4th tee box. Our old reservoir had become heavily silted and saturated with algae which was clogging up and damaging our irrigation pumps and filters preventing the even distribution of water around the course during the summer months.

DAA Update

We have had several meetings over the year with the DAA with Vice-Captain Ray Gregan & our Chairman John McCarthy representing us. We had a new road layout at our practice area. We had different road closures around the course over the year with the final one reopened at the end of September. Our discussions with the DAA will continue in 2018.

Bond Scheme

We want to thank all our members who purchased bonds this year as this provides the club with some additional financial support across the year. The bond scheme has been running for a few years now and it has helped us cut back on the interest payments the club would otherwise have to pay the bank. This year's draw will take place at the AGM on Dec 7.

Membership & Marketing

The Council are always looking for ways to attract new members and increase the profile of Forrest Little. Please feel free to pass your suggestions on to any member of Council. Our membership committee including Peter Duffy, Theresa McMahon and Siobhan Garvey developed some great offers. The adjustments made at the beginning of the year have paid dividends to the club. The Junior and Intermediate membership changes have been a success along with new members arriving with different special offers throughout 2017.

“Get into Golf for Women” programme

We had a very successful eight weeks beginners programme with lessons with our club Pro Tony Judd. The Ladies committee led by Geraldine Finnegan & Lady Captain Joyce Moran, did a superb job making 32 ladies feel at home in Forrest Little as part of this programme. A fun, friendly environment was guaranteed and equipment was provided where needed.

Catering

Tommy Fitzgerald and his team provided us with quality catering facilities up until October this year before moving on. Bliss Cuisine took over during a busy period of Captains dinners and successfully managed this change over process in style.

Website

Special thanks has to go to Vincent Collier for their dedication and diligence with any alterations or updates made to the Forrest Little website.

Snooker

The team 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 Annes, 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. Derek McCabe is always keen to attract new talent so if you have an interest in Snooker and you think you might also have some talent make yourself known to him.

Elite Golf

This year has been a great year for Forrest Little members of the Hilary Golf Society with juvenile Ciaran Gregan(4) winning the Baltray outing in March and junior Keith McCabe(4) winning the Royal Dublin event in April.

Julie McCarthy

Julie played in the 2017 Portuguese ladies open.

She was selected for the Irish ladies European team.

She played in the Ladies European international in Switzerland and the British stroke-play in Scotland. She was also a member of the ladies home internationals in Little Aston which they won for the first time in many years.

Forrest little want to wish Julie all the best in the next phase of your golfing career as she heads off on a golfing scholarship to Auburn College, Alabama in January 2018.

Finally

Thanks to all members who volunteered throughout 2017, be it on Council, on Committees, on sub-committees or in any other way. Your contribution no matter how big or small is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all of our employees who keep Forrest Little running on a business as usual basis. Thanks also to our Secretary Manager, Sean Dunne and Margaret Moynihan in the office for their continued work and support to keep the office running our day to day business.

Regards

Peter Reilly
Honorary Secretary