

## **Forrest Little Golf Club- Honorary Secretary's Report for AGM 2018**

### **Drive In**

The year started on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January with the Captains' Drive-in. The Captain Ray Gregan and Lady Captain Laura Dooley looked fantastic in their Dublin Colours. They were also joined by our Juvenile Captains Darren Daly and Rebecca Wall. A blue and white Beach Buggy carried the Captains to the first tee. All Captains got their drives off with great ease. A packed club house was entertained by John Sheridan and The Long Jump Band as the members enjoyed their food and drinks.

It was a great coup for the members of Forrest Little to have as special guests, 3 Famous GAA cups The Sam Maguire, The Liam Mc Carthy Cup and The Ladies Brendan Martin Cup. What a treat, with members queueing to have their photos taken with the famous trophies.

### **The Council**

The Council met twelve times this year. The Club Officers comprised of: Captain Ray Gregan, Lady Captain Laura Dooley, Chairperson Peter Reilly, Honorary Secretary Theresa Mc Mahon, Honorary Treasurer Gerry Healy, Course & Greens portfolio Sean Hyland, House & Grounds portfolio Michael Kearney, Membership & Marketing portfolio Peter Duffy. Vice-Captain Padraic Robinson and Lady Vice- Captain Imelda Dunne attended Council meetings throughout the year to ensure they were kept abreast of developments as they prepare to take up their positions in 2019. The Council met with the Trustees on three occasions. The Club President Paddy Quaid and Lady President Ann Guiden have been great representatives and spokespersons for Forrest Little throughout 2018.

### **Events**

The events Committee chaired by Adrienne Timmons and ably assisted by Nicky Lowndes and members of the Social Committee Team were active throughout the year arranging some great nights and social events for members and visitors. Some of the highlights included: The Captains' Drive-in, Valentines Night Event, St Patrick's Day Family Day. Rugby Match event in March, Stars & Stripes Event, The Forrest Little Classic Fundraiser. Captains' and Presidents' Prize Nights, Family Team Event. Club Quiz Night, Race Night, Captains' Dinners, Mass for Deceased members and the Children's Christmas Party. In a new initiative, the Social Committee introduced "Find the Joker" an exciting new game for members which has gained momentum since its introduction. The work of the events committee provides our members with great social events, so we can mingle, get to know each other and enjoy both our golf and entertainment in an enjoyable way. Events help support the income of the club and by supporting these we are supporting our club.

### **Catering**

Tommy Fitzgerald who was catering for us for nearly two years moved on to pastures new and the Council engaged Bliss Cuisine towards the end of 2017 to provide the catering for the club. Bliss Cuisine provides catering to many of our neighbouring golf clubs and following discussions we engaged them to supply our catering needs. They were very accommodating and adapted to our ways in a pleasant and satisfactory manner. In May, Bliss arranged for J & M Golf Cuisine to take over the contract for catering. This was supported by Council. This arrangement has worked well for the club and Mizanur and Sameer and their team have been very obliging to our needs.

### **General Data Protection Regulations.**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> May the new General Data Protection Regulations came into force. This involved a lot of work in relation to policy formation, training of staff, and updating our systems to comply with the new regulations. The main benefit of GDPR is to ensure that personal information the club holds is protected from misuse. Our thanks to Sean Dunne, Council and administration staff for getting us through the compliance needed to adhere to the new regulations.

### **Course and Greens and Carr Golf**

Our Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Scott moved on to a new position at the start of the year. We were so thankful to have had Geoff's services for so many years. In a brave move the Council engaged Carr Golf to manage our

course. Carr Golf commenced their arrangement with us in February. This proved to be a timely move and since they started, there has been a remarkable improvement in the presentation of the course under the day to day direction of Diarmuid Dempsey from Carr Golf

A major capital project was the installation of our concealed water tank to supply the course with water. This was discussed for several years by various councils, but cost was always an issue. The existing reservoir had become problematic and we had no choice but move forward on this. The new tank became operational in late January. This move proved fortuitous and allowed us to have an ample supply of water to feed our greens and course throughout the extremely dry Summer.

The Tuesday group of volunteers have been busy working alongside Carr Golf and Sean Hyland assisting and improving the course where-ever needed. This included the setting up our Senior Course, making good the area around the new submerged tank and the lovely sitting area around the clock. Clean up of course, after storms, was executed swiftly bringing the course back to itself in no time. Our volunteer gardening team have continued to attend to the approach to the first tee box tending to the flowerbeds and presenting the flowers and shrubs in an impressive way.

### **Inter- Club Teams**

We had some success and some disappointments as we progressed in the various competitions and team events. We were beaten in round one in the Pierce Purcell, Metropolitan Cup, Uden Cup, Senior Cup, Junior Foursomes(L) Challenge Cup (L). Unfortunately, in the Barton Cup while we won our match in the first round we were later disqualified on a technicality. Our Junior Cup team failed narrowly to qualify for Matchplay in Forrest Little on the 9th June. It went to a count back on the cards.

We were beaten in round 2 in the JB Carr and Minor Cup (L) competitions. We were beaten in round 3 in the All Ireland Fourball and the Irish Mixed Foursomes. Our O'Grady Cup team were beaten 3-2 by Balbriggan. Our Jimmy Bruen Shield Team qualified in second place in Roganstown. The Matchplay section was played on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June in the morning we beat Co. Louth and the final was against Dundalk. Despite the intense heat, fiery fairways and quick greens Forrest Little prevailed on the final green. Forrest Little got through to The Leinster Quarter final versus Co. Meath (Trim) on Sunday 8th July in Headfort in a nail- biting finish only to be beaten 3 matches to 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Our Senior Seniors and Super Seniors had mixed fortunes in their respective Leagues. The Ladies Seniors finished in third position. A special mention must be made for the ladies in their success in the Revive Active 4 Ball Competition who took it all the way to the Regional Quarter Finals in July only to be beaten 3 matches to 2.

Special Thanks to all team managers and players who volunteered to manage the teams and to the players who came forward to wear the Forrest Little colours and play for the club. A special thanks must go to Patsy Mohan and Pat O'Brien for the significant time, dedication and enthusiasm in co-ordinating the work of managers and players alike. Unfortunately, no Pennants or silverware in the clubhouse this year.

### **Information night and EGM**

An Information Night was held in Forrest Little on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. The purpose of the information night was to inform members of the state of the club finances and to highlight to members of the need to introduce changes to the fee structures for the club. The presentation was made on the night by the club Treasurer Gerry Healy.

An EGM was held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Our Treasurer Gerry Healy delivered the presentation on the need for a restructure of the current fee structure. A total of 12 motions were proposed and voted on at the EGM. All motions were concerned with revision to fee structures, loyalty card credit, the introduction of a new category of Over 80's, the extension of senior age qualification to 68 years, and a reduction of discount to children of members from 75% to 50%. A final motion to amend the wording of the club rules, as necessary, to reflect the motions was carried. 106 members were in attendance on the night, all motions presented were passed.

The motions and amendments voted on and passed at the EGM were reflected in the Update of the Club Rules in August 2018. These were posted to the club website in August 2018

## **Membership & Marketing**

This year we teamed up with Corrstown Golf Club in an novel idea of having reciprocal arrangements for members to play golf in both locations. This resulted in us having 45 holes at our disposal for golf. This move has proved popular with members from both clubs. Peter Duffy and his team, along with our Chairperson Peter Reilly, Captain Ray, Lady Captain Laura and Joyce Moran (on the ladies' side) have worked hard to keep this initiative going since it's induction. Throughout the year we continued to attract new members at Full, Junior, Intermediate Level and in the Ladies Section also. Well done to Peter Duffy, his team and the Ladies Committee for their work in this area.

## **House and Grounds**

Several improvements were made by our House and Grounds Team under the direction of Mick Kearney and with the help of volunteers. These included: erection of new canopy at the pro-shop, painting of car parking spaces and railings, improvements in kitchen area with new equipment installed, and the erection of a Trophy Cabinet in the Front Hall.

## **Sports Grants**

The Council applied for two sports grants in September, one from the Sports Capital Programme and the other from Dublin Airport Authority. We were successful in securing €47,000 under the Sports Capital Programme in 2018 which helped build our Senior Course and purchase a new Fairway Mower. Hopefully we will secure further funding from our 2018 applications.

## **Special Mention for their Achievements**

Jack Mc Donnell, representing Forrest Little has had a fantastic year. Jack progressed up through "The Bridgestone Order of Merit" and went on to win "The Fore Golf Irish Order of Merit". This is a terrific achievement. Julie Mc Carthy is doing extremely well in Auburn University in Alabama USA. She has featured throughout the year for her college. She finished with a great performance in the Autumn series, gaining 4<sup>th</sup> place in Individual rankings. When at home in the Summer she donned the Forrest Little colours and joined the Ladies in the Revive Active 4 Ball and was a joy to watch. Dean Duffy, flying the Forrest Little Colours, in a steady performance, made it through to the Quarter Finals in the Lord Mayor's Cup held in Clontarf Golf Club. This is a prestigious competition, so to reach the quarter final of this event was an immense achievement. Atharva Rajeshkumar -A cadet member of Forrest Little won many competitions throughout the Summer and won the "Under 7 Flogas Irish Junior Open Ulster Series". We congratulate all these young golfers for their achievements, and continued success in future years. Special mention also to Joyce Moran who won the Maureen Mc Kenna Trophy, Emer Bambrick and sister Mary who won the Eileen Leydon Sisters Trophy and Gerry Healy and sister Hilary who won the National Siblings Competition in Kilmashogue GC. All are great ambassadors for Forrest Little Golf Club.

## **A Final word**

Sincere thanks to all club members who volunteered throughout the year in any way, whether it be on Council, as Trustees, on Committees and sub-committees, as managers, assistants and volunteers with the many tasks that are undertaken on a day to day basis for and on behalf of the club. Your contribution no matter how big or small is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Tony and Susan in the pro shop for their continued contribution to the club, to Ray and bar staff for keeping the drought at bay and to the cleaning staff Marcin and Linda for keeping the club-house clean and tidy. Linda has now moved on to a new position after ten years with us. We wish her well. Thanks also to Diarmuid, Aindriu and course staff for their work on the course. Special thanks to Margaret in the office and to our Secretary Manager, Sean Dunne for his services and valuable contribution, in the running of the club.

**Theresa Mc Mahon**

**Honorary Secretary**