

Forrest Little Golf Club- Honorary Secretary's Report for AGM 2019

Drive In

The year started on the 5th of January with the Captains' Drive-in. The Captain Padraic Robinson and Lady Captain Imelda Dunne looked fantastic in their "Greatest Showman" outfits. They were also joined in costume by our Juvenile Captains, Dean Duffy and Bláithín Hyland. A VW Camper Van carried the Captains to the first tee. All Captains got their drives off with great ease. Later a packed club house was entertained by John Sheridan and The Long Jump Band as the members enjoyed the occasion.

The Council

The Management Council met twelve times this year. The Club Officers comprised of: Captain Padraic Robinson, Lady Captain Imelda Dunne, Chairperson Peter Reilly, Honorary Secretary Theresa Mc Mahon and Honorary Treasurer Maeve Duffy. The Course & Greens portfolio was held by Sean Hyland. The House & Grounds portfolio was held by Seamus Lacey. Membership & Marketing portfolio was held by Peter Duffy. Vice-Captain, Michael Kearney and Lady Vice- Captain, Brid McGee attended management council meetings throughout the year to ensure they were kept abreast of developments as they prepare to take up their Captaincy positions in 2020. The Management Council met with the Trustees on three occasions. The Club President Paddy Quaid and Lady President Ann Guiden completed a second year in their respective positions, and both have been great representatives and spokespersons for Forrest Little throughout 2018 and 2019.

Club V1 System

In July, the Management Council had no option but to upgrade the club's software system. We moved from Club 2000 to the Club V1 system. The Club V1 system is used by over 1550 clubs in Ireland. The system improves operations for members checking in for competitions, posting scores, using the BRS and for administration operations in the office. The new Club V1 is totally compliant with CONGU rules regarding handicapping and competitions. This upgrade had been on the cards for a period of time and the transition from one system to the other went very smoothly. Thanks to all involved with the research, the installation, and for attending training in operating the new upgraded system.

Inter- Club Teams

We had some success and some disappointments as we progressed in the various competitions and team events.

Unfortunately, we failed to qualify in the Jimmy Bruen Shield, Junior Cup, Pierce Purcell Shield, Barton Shield and Junior Cup

Forrest Little were beaten in Round 1 in the Fred Perry over 55's 4 ball, Irish Mixed Foursomes, O Grady Cup Mixed, Ladies Revive Active 4 ball, and Ladies Minor Cup.

We were narrowly beaten in Round 2 of the JB Carr Trophy with the deciding match lost on the 19th hole.

Well done to the following teams who made it to Round 3 of their respective competitions. Unfortunately, we were beaten by Donabate GC in Round 3 in the Uden Cup. We were also beaten in Round 3 of the All Ireland 4 ball by Rathcore Golf club.

Our Metropolitan Team were narrowly beaten by the Island GC in the Leinster Quarter Final. The Island went on to the Leinster Final and were beaten on the 19th by Lucan G C

A special mention must be made for our Senior Cup Team who played Enniscorthy Golf Club in the Quarter Finals of the Leinster Section of the Irish Senior Cup held in Blainroe Golf Club on Saturday 24th August 2019. They were beaten by Enniscorthy who were subsequently narrowly beaten in the Leinster Final by Carton House GC.

Great credit and congratulation must go to our Ladies Junior Foursomes Team who made it through to the Leinster Junior Foursomes Finals held on Sunday 1st September where they played Newlands Golf Club. In a very exciting and tight match, they finished in second place and brought home the silver medals

In the Super Senior Trophy (over 70's) Our Super Seniors halved two matches, lost 1 and were beaten in 1 match. Of note in this event was a Hole in One by Sean Hannon when playing in Rathfarnham on 22nd March.

The Ladies Fingal Seniors finished in third position in their group and were just beaten by 2 points to qualify for the semi- finals.

Special Thanks to all team managers, to the players who came forward to wear the Forrest Little colours and went on panels to play for the club. A special thanks must go to Patsy Mohan and Pat O'Brien for the significant time, dedication and enthusiasm in coordinating the work of managers and players alike.

New Course Record

Jack Mc Donnell broke the Forrest Little Course Record with a fantastic score of 64 on the 21st July when playing in the Lady Captain's Prize to the Men. Jack, when competing in the Senior Scratch Cup in Balbriggan, the previous week, broke their course record with an equally wonderful score of 64. This is a marvellous achievement for Jack to break two course records in the space of a week. Congratulations and well-done Jack.

Social Events

The Events and Social 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, St Patrick's Day Event, Swing Night, Rugby, Stars & Stripes Event, Captains' and Presidents' Nights, Lunar Golf Evening, Captains' Dinners, Mass for Deceased Members and the Children's Christmas Party with Santa. The Social Committee were also involved with The Forrest Little Classic Fundraiser.

The Social Committee managed the "Find the Joker" game for members which has gained momentum since its introduction. The first Jackpot of €1200 was won by Forrest Little member Joe Fitzpatrick. We are now in a new round of the game. The work of the Social Committee provides our members with great social events, so we can mingle and enjoy both

our golf and entertainment in the club. Events help support the income of the club and by supporting these events and initiatives we are supporting our club.

Course and Greens and Carr Golf

Carr Golf continued with the management of Forrest Little Golf Course. There has been a remarkable improvement in the presentation of the course since they commenced their management in February 2017. Our course superintendent, Diarmuid Dempsey from Carr Golf manages the day to day schedule of works on the course.

A major capital expenditure on the course was the purchase of the Rough Mower. This was on display for members on the weekend of the Captain's Prize. In September we sanded all the fairways, this had not been carried out for several years.

A group of volunteers have been busy working alongside Carr Golf and with Sean Hyland assisting and improving the course where-ever needed. Our volunteer gardening team have continued to attend to the approach on the first tee box and surrounds, tending to the flowerbeds and presenting the flowers and shrubs in an impressive way.

The club has purchased four new Golf buggies which will be available to hire by members and visitors. These new buggies will replace the four buggies we have had on lease to date. This is another positive move for the club. A shelter for the club buggies was erected during the year with the generosity of Peter O'Brien who gave of his time and expertise so willingly.

Membership & Marketing

This year, we again teamed up with Corrstown Golf Club in having reciprocal arrangements for members to play golf in both locations. This resulted in both clubs having 45 holes at our disposal for golf. The Management Council, following extensive discussion felt that the arrangement had run its course and decided to end the arrangement at the end of 2019.

Throughout the year we continued to attract new members at Full, Junior and Intermediate Level and in the Ladies Section also.

We have had great success with the Get into Golf programme this year. Thirty-five new ladies decided to remain on and give golf a try. We hope that they will continue with their membership into the future. A special thanks to Geraldine Finnigan, the Lady Captain Imelda, and the team of volunteers who helped in their initial introduction to golf. We also thank Tony Judd for his input with the new ladies.

House and Grounds

Several improvements were made by our House and Grounds Team under the direction of Seamus Lacey, assisted by Captain Pdraic Robinson, Vice-Captain Mick Kearney and the entire House & Grounds Volunteer Group. Improvements included: repainting of the members lounge, painting of the external entrance to the clubhouse, clear-out and tidy up of the caddy car storage area, painting of car park spaces.

A major undertaking for the club was the repair of the leaking roof. The leaks were causing damage to certain areas of the clubhouse and the damage was becoming problematic. Seamus Lacey, and the project team did trojan work in researching what needed to be done and

engaging a company to do the work. This was a very expensive and essential repair job and was funded by the Capital Projects Fund. Our thanks to all for their input.

Work has commenced with the upgrade of the main lounge; the ceiling tiles have been replaced. Curtains were taken down, cleaned and rehung and the walls were painted. All done by volunteers. Replacement of the carpet is now the focus of attention.

Sports Grants

The Council applied for a sports grant from the Sports Capital Programme. We are still awaiting confirmation on whether we were successful or not. This grant application was to upgrade the men's shower rooms and toilets. Hopefully this grant will eventually come through.

Special Members Loan

In a special initiative, the Council appealed to members to contribute to a fundraising drive to assist with special capital projects that were essential. These included: replacement of course machinery, the purchase of new buggies and essential projects in and around the clubhouse. The response was excellent, the amount raised was €180k. This money is managed separately from the day to day management finances of the club. All projects targeted are approved by the Management Council. This initiative is saving the club thousands of euro on the interest we would have had to pay to the banks if we were to borrow the amount needed to undertake the capital projects identified.

A Final word

I would like to thank our Captain Padraic, our Lady Captain Imelda, and our Juvenile Captains' Dean Duffy and Bláithín Hyland for their enthusiasm and contribution to Forrest Little throughout the year.

Thanks to Tony and Susan in the pro shop for their continued contribution to the club, to Ray and Jim in the bar for keeping the drought at bay. To Marcin for his contribution to the many jobs around the club and for keeping the club house clean and tidy. Thanks also to Diarmuid, Aindriu and the entire course staff team for the great efforts they have made to improve and maintain our course. Thanks also to our caterers J & M Cuisine for their continued input in catering to our culinary needs need throughout the year. 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.

I also feel it appropriate to mention that our longest serving staff member on the course, Ciaran Houlihan sadly passed away on 10th May this year.

Finally, sincere thanks to all club members, who volunteered throughout the year in any way, whether it be on Council, as Presidents, as Trustees, on Committees and Subcommittees, as managers or 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.

Theresa Mc Mahon

Honorary Secretary