

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2023

Apologies for Absence

Dave Knight, Eric Robinson, Ian Shephard, Tim Davey, Dave Stanbridge, Allan Bentley and Ray Greenham.

Minutes of last year's meeting

As this meeting is the inaugural meeting of the newly re-formed Seniors Section, there are no previous minutes.

Captain's Report

I would like to say a big thank you to all members of the Seniors Section for allowing me to be your Captain for the past year. Although a little daunting to start with it got much easier, especially with my wife writing out all the cards for the matches. I wish to thank all those players who played in the inter-club matches this season. We played 15 matches in all of which we won 6, lost 8 and halved 1. I would like to thank all members for supporting me on my Captains Day, a great day was had by all and we raised £2,186.00 for Oakhaven Hospice Trust. I am sure that you will agree that the golf course has been in excellent condition this year, thanks to all the work of head green keeper Jon Hatt and his staff. Unfortunately, we have had some very wet weather just lately leading to the course being closed due to flooding. But even Jon cannot be blamed for that. Steve is very keen for us to run the Seniors Section with autonomy, including competitions, fixtures, events and finances. To do this we need a small committee of members to oversee the section. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the committee please let Ian know. Thank you once again, over to Ian

Vice-Captain's Report

It's been a great pleasure for me to work alongside Captain Colin this year in the inaugural year of the newly re-formed Seniors Section. Our ambition was to see the section grow in numbers through participation in our Monday competitions and social events. At the end of last year we had 84 members who had played in at least one Monday competition, since then 20 have not returned, and 28 new faces have joined us, making 92 to date. The Monday competitions could be better supported, with an average of 36 players turning out each week. Some of you may not be aware that Club Secretary John Mitchell keeps the Seniors competition open all day on a Monday. Although, for convenience, we have a booking system for morning play, you are able to play later in the day, with fellow member(s), if you so wish. Also, the 'Fun' competitions on the last Monday of each month are very enjoyable. Come along and join in; you're guaranteed to meet new friends. The winners and runners-up of this year's trophies will be presented with their awards immediately after the AGM has concluded. It just remains for me to say how much I have enjoyed my year as Vice Captain under Colin's guidance and thank you all for your support.

Secretary's Report

This is the inaugural AGM of the newly re-formed Senior's section at Ferndown Forest Golf Club. I wish to thank Captain Colin McMillan and Vice Captain Ian Newman for the way they have led the membership through the re-launch of the section. The re-launch involved changes to the way the section was run after the retirement of John Moore, the competition secretary at the time. This led to a new computerised system. Automation was the key going forward, we now used a computer to sign in and the club secretary produced the results on computer and then emailed them to the players. The newly re-formed Seniors section was asked to elect a panel of volunteers to meet with club secretary John Mitchell on a regular basis to organise and oversee competition formats and inter-club matches. Although a new Captain and Vice Captain were elected for the new panel, a committee of volunteers didn't materialise, which we hope to correct this year. Lastly, my thanks go to John Mitchell, Club Secretary, who's help has been invaluable in setting up and running the software for our competitions. Annual nominations will now be invited for next year's Captain, Vice Captain and Committee.

Election of Captain, Vice Captain, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee.

The under-mentioned members were nominated and elected to the following positions:-

Captain - Ian Newman, **Vice-Captain** - Larry Austin, **Secretary/Treasurer** - Keith Broom, **Committee Members** - Allan Bentley and Graham Chadwick

Any Other Business

Question - How does the new handicapping system work?

Answer - Automatically, based on your round of golf and your previous rounds of golf.
Your handicap index is portable you can take it from course to course and play anywhere in the world.

Question - Will the £5 fee previously charged for being a member of the old seniors section be re-introduced?

Answer - No, but this will have to be ratified by the new committee.

Question - Will there still be a £1.00 donation payable to the Captain's charity on the 18 hole for going into the stream in front of the green?

Answer - No, but this will have to be ratified by the new committee.

Question - Is there/will there be, a list of seniors names and phone numbers published so that other Senior's can contact them?

Answer - Yes, if you agree to the Senior's section publishing your details.
This will have to be ratified by the new committee.

Question - Will you be still making memorial donations to the family of members that have passed?

Answer - As from next year we will review the custom of making a memorial donation to the family of deceased members. This will have to be ratified by the new committee.

Question - Will there be a Senior's Section Christmas Lunch this year?

Answer - Owing to unforeseen circumstances, a Senior's Section Christmas Lunch was unable to be booked this year. However, contact Larry Austin if you are interested in a Christmas lunch.

Question and Answer Session

The owner/proprietor Steve Pockneall chaired a question and answer session for members. He outlined three main conditions that he expected the section to adhere to: Enjoyment, Engagement and Participation. These are the main components of an all inclusive, non discriminatory, healthy seniors section. Topics covered also included: Ground staff numbers, Price increase for 2024, Fences, Mats & Winter Tees, New Male Changing Rooms, Dedicated Smoking Area, Strength of Wi-Fi, Players Register.

Close of AGM

The AGM closed at 7.30pm.