



## **Welcome Booklet**

### **For New Golfers & Club Members**



We have a Defibrillator located in The Forest Inn  
Call 01202 894990 or 01202 876096 in emergency

Welcome to Ferndown Forest Golf Club this welcome booklet will provide you with all the essential information you will need to help you along your journey learning golf as well as providing some insight into the golf club.

#### **Key Club Personnel Contact Details:**

- **Proprietor & General Manager: Steve Pockneall**

Steve Pockneall is responsible for the day to day running of the Ferndown Forest Golf Complex. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact him on:

Tel No: 01202 876096

Email: [golf@ferndownforestgolfcourse.co.uk](mailto:golf@ferndownforestgolfcourse.co.uk)

- **Head PGA Professional: Graham Howell**

Graham works in the Golf Shop and delivers coaching. Graham is also responsible for competition and handicap management. Graham also represents the club in PGA events and plays extensively in the South West PGA region.

Tel No: 01202 876096

Email: [graham.howell.pro@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.howell.pro@btinternet.com)

- **Handicap & Membership Secretary: John Mitchell**

John is responsible for managing the competitions and handicaps for the member's competitions as well as the membership information database and renewals. Please feel free to ask any questions about your handicap and results as well as any questions about how the system works.

Tel No: 01202 876096

Email: [ffgcsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:ffgcsecretary@outlook.com)

- **Forest Inn General Manager: Vasek Gryga**

Vasek runs our popular onsite bar & restaurant The Forest Inn. We regularly host member's social events and live music. The facility is also available for members to hire.

Tel No: 01202 894990

Email: [vasek@evolutiongolf.co.uk](mailto:vasek@evolutiongolf.co.uk)

#### **PGA Professionals & Shop Staff**

All our staff and our team of PGA Golf Professionals are on hand to help with any query or question you may have. Their roles are to help you to enjoy the experience of the facility and get the most out of your visit and your membership.

#### **Lead Buddies:**

A buddy is a volunteer from the golf club who provides support and guidance to new golfers who are learning the game. They are available to take new golfers out on the golf course and help them experience the wider golf club environment. If you are interested in meeting our buddies please contact the golf shop on 01202 876096.

#### **Greens Staff**

Our greens team are responsible for the upkeep of the course; they normally work during the early part of the day to avoid the busy playing times. The green staff takes priority on the course so please be patient if they are working on the hole you are playing, as they will only be a few minutes. The team is headed by Course Manager Jon Hatt.

**Junior Organiser:** Our Junior Organiser operates the junior section. They arrange coaching and competitive activities for juniors, which are open to members and non-members. For more information please refer to the junior noticeboard in the club foyer.

## Our Golf Club Facilities

Here at Ferndown Forest Golf Course we have a variety of facilities to cater for our members and visitors:

- 18 Hole woodland Golf Course
- Floodlit Driving Range
- Floodlit Putting & Chipping Green
- Forest Inn Bar & Restaurant

## Club Information

All of our club information can be found on our website which is updated regularly with news and important messages but please see the additional places listed below where club information can also be viewed:

**Email Newsletter:** The Club send out a regular email newsletter that keeps you up to date with special offers, upcoming events, competition results and general goings on at the club. Please give your email address to the golf shop if you do not currently receive these messages.

**Noticeboards:** These are located in the ladies changing room, Men's changing room foyer and the driving range machine area. These are a good source of information for members. Some notices are there for information but others require your input, such as signing up for matches, entering competitions and social activities.

**Tee Times & Reservations:** Members can book their tee times Online or in the Golf Shop. Members may book up to 14 days in advance. Members need to be aware that visiting parties are an important income for the golf club and need to be made welcome as it subsidises the yearly membership subscriptions. Here at the golf club we operate a booking system where you book your tee time in advance where you turn up on the designated competition day and time.

## What do you need to play Golf?

### Clothing

Our clubs dress code is relaxed and for beginners we recommend wearing flat soled shoes and comfortable clothing. Golf shoes are a benefit as they assist with your grip as well as being waterproof.

### What should be in your golf bag?

Here is a selection of equipment that you should have in your golf bag:

Up to 14 clubs - Every Golfer must have their own bag of clubs. Sharing clubs is not allowed.

Towel to clean clubs

Umbrella and Waterproofs

Ball marker and pitch mark repairer - Repairing pitch marks on greens is vitally important to the ongoing greens quality.

Golf balls and tees - Golf balls should be uniquely marked so you can identify your golf ball on the course

Hat and golf glove

Mobile phone - To contact the clubhouse if any issues or medical emergencies.

Drink and snacks - A round of golf can take 3-4 hours. It is essential to keep hydrated and your energy levels up.

Pocket rule book - Available from the golf shop free of charge

Scorecard and pencil - Available from the golf shop free of charge



distribution of strokes for matchplay competitions. It can also be used to determine the difficulty of the holes on the golf course with SI 1 being the hardest and SI 18 being the easiest.

## **Benefits of being a Golf Club member**

**Good for your health** - A round of golf works off over 1000 calories and social interaction is proven to increase life expectancy.

**Access to Competitions & Social Events** - Throughout the year you can play competitions and social golf. A great way to keep those competitive spirits going in a friendly environment.

**Sense of belonging and meeting new friends** - The sections at the club have their own identities and loyal membership. Members are proud to play for the club and represent the teams against other clubs. We actively encourage and create opportunities for you to play with new people.

**Access to other golf courses through matches, competitions and reciprocals** - We play regular competitive and friendly games against other clubs. We also have a great portfolio of reciprocal courses.

**Obtaining an official golf club handicap (CONGU)** - This enables you to play in Open competitions, club competitions, regional leagues and alliances. When playing other courses, you may be required to show proof of an official handicap

**Discounts on Golf Buggy Hire** - Members get preferential rates on Golf Buggies and an option to have a 12 month unlimited buggy hire membership.

**Discounts for your guests to join you for golf** - Members Guests can play at a discount 7 days a week. (Not applicable to Associate Members Guests)

**Numerous events, trips and occasions exclusive to members** - Keep an eye on communications for these exclusive events.

### **Reciprocals:**

We have a great range of courses that our members can play Free of charge as well as some local courses that offer FFGC members a helpful discount. These courses are constantly changing so please look at the website. All reciprocals are to be booked through the golf shop.

### **Lockers:**

Lockers are available for members to rent for the annual price of £52. They are large enough for a set of clubs and shoes. They are very popular so you may find there is a waiting list. Please apply for a locker in the golf shop.

### **Golf Buggy Storage:**

We offer the facility to store your own personal ride on two man or single seat golf buggies. These can also be charged on site. Please ask in the golf shop for availability and cost.

### **Social Roll Ups:**

At Ferndown Forest we are very active at encouraging social golf. We operate different social roll ups each week where you can meet other like-minded golfers in a relaxed atmosphere and play some non-competitive golf. Please see the noticeboards or ask in the golf shop for details.

These are a great way for you to meet new people and to start your route in to playing club events and eventually competitions.

## **Handicapping**

### **What is a handicap and why do I need one?**

A golfer's handicap is a number assigned to him/her, which defines their skill/ability level. A handicap gives all standards of golfers an opportunity to play together or compete against one another on an equal level. In a stroke play event, a golfer's handicap is deducted from his/her "gross" score (total shots taken) to provide a "nett" figure (total shots taken minus handicap). In a match play event, a player's handicap determines how many shots they will either give to, or receive from, an opponent.

Golfers are divided into the following categories:

- CATEGORY 1 – handicaps of 5 or less
- CATEGORY 2 – handicaps of 6 to 12
- CATEGORY 3 – handicaps of 13 to 20
- CATEGORY 4 – handicaps of 21 to 28
- CATEGORY 5 – handicaps of 29 to 36
- CATEGORY 6 - handicaps of 37 to 54

### **How to obtain your first handicap:**

An FFGC club member can be allotted an official CONGU handicap. Please hand 3 signed scorecards in that you have played at FFGC. Another member or someone that already possesses a handicap can mark these. We can happily arrange games for you so you can achieve your handicap.

### **How do I improve my handicap?**

A player's handicap is worked out from a mean average of their best 8 scores from their previous 20 rounds. To improve your handicap you must improve the scores of your best 8.

### **Supplementary Scores:**

You can also enter supplementary scores throughout the year to adjust your handicap. If you would like to play a supplementary card round please register on the touch screen in the foyer before starting your round. You then enter your scores on the touch screen after your round and the card will be processed overnight to adjust your handicap.

## Competitions & Matches

We run various club competitions, which vary in format and will endeavor to cater for golfers of all abilities. Some will be run at the club, others may involve playing at other clubs, through alliances and local leagues. All our competitions and fixtures are published on our website and the noticeboards. Please ask in the golf shop for information on how to enter the different events.

**Stableford Competitions:** We hold a club Stableford every third weekend of the month (Friday - Sunday) . It is open to all members. There are also extra Stableford events throughout the year. This is a popular format for competitions, as one or two bad holes do not ruin your scorecard. Rather than the number of shots for the hole, you have a points system.

Points are awarded in the following way:

- Above bogey 0 points
- Bogey (1 shot over par) 1 point
- Par 2 points
- Birdie (1 shot under par) 3 points
- Eagle (2 shots under par) 4 points
- Albatross (3 shots under par) 5 points

Your shots are based on your handicap as per the following example:

- A player off a 6 handicap gets a shot at the holes with stroke index 1–6.
- A player off an 18 handicap gets a shot at each hole.
- A player off a 24 handicap gets 2 shots at stroke index holes 1–6 and 1 shot at stroke index holes 7–18.

**Medal Competitions – Handicap:** This is the format most commonly used by golf clubs for their monthly medals and other medal competitions. A player subtracts their handicap away from the total shots taken to give their nett score.

**Medal Competitions – Scratch:** This is where only gross scores count, handicaps are not taken into consideration. This format is normally used for the Club Championship.

**Foursomes:** In this format players (in pairs) hit alternate shots. Each player will hit 9 tee shots and then take it in turns until holing out. It is a quick format of golf as players can walk ahead to a point near to where their partner will hit the ball. You can either play in medal or Stableford format.

**Greensomes:** This format is very similar to foursomes, the difference being that both players tee off at each hole, then pick one of the players drives (normally the best one) and the other player then plays and in turn from there until holing out.

**Texas Scramble:** This is played in a 3 or 4 player team format. You all tee off, all the players hit their second shot from where the best drive landed, then all hit a 3rd shot from where the best 2nd shot finished and so on until the hole is completed.

**Match Play:** A form of competition in which each hole is a separate competition, players can either win, lose or halve a hole, the winner is determined by the number of holes won rather than the gross, nett or Stableford score. Once a player is up by a number of holes and there are less holes left to play then they have won, i.e. 5up with 4 holes to play, the player has won 5&4. If a match is all square at the end then you may need to play extra holes until there is a winner, referred to as sudden death.

**Knock out Competitions:** Using the match play format, most clubs will run a variety of knock out competitions, these can either be singles, foursomes, better ball, mixed or for handicap categories.

## **Entry Fees & Prizes**

### **Entry Fees:**

Each competition has an entry fee. These are payable on the day of the event.

### **2's Sweep:**

In addition to the entry fees there is an additional £1 entry to the 2's sweep. This money is shared between every entrant that achieves a 2 on a hole. If a player achieves more than one 2 they receive the additional share of the pot. If a hole in 1 is achieved in the competition, the player receives all of the 2's sweep money.

### **Prizes:**

The Club Committee retains 25% off entry fees to go towards the members fund for trophies, engraving, events etc. The remaining 75% is distributed to the top 3 players in each division on a 50%, 30%, 20% split. The money is placed on the golf shop account of the player to be spent in the golf shop on any goods or services. You may see a statement of your account at any point by asking in the golf shop.

## **Results & Handicaps**

You can track competition results, your scores, statistics and handicap record online. Please enter through the members area on the website or go to [www.masterscoreboard.co.uk](http://www.masterscoreboard.co.uk). We also publish these results on our noticeboards

## **Club Sections**

At Ferndown Forest the club has various sections of the club.

### **Club Section:**

The club runs competitions and events for the entire club including all membership categories. All club events are published on the fixture list and publicized and operated by the Golf Shop. The Competitions and results are published online and also on the noticeboard in the driving range foyer.

### **Over 55's Section:**

We have a very welcoming Senior membership here at Ferndown Forest. If you are over 55 and interested in playing we operate weekly competitions on Monday Mornings as well as a roll up every Wednesday from 8am – 9am. We have a large noticeboard in the Men's changing room immediately on your right hand side as you walk in or you can ask in the golf shop for more information.

On Mondays the competitions are played in a mixture of formats and played off the white or yellow tees. Players sign in and pay their entry fee (£2 plus optional £1 2's sweep) in the golf shop and scorecards are recorded in the Club Handicap software. Tee times are randomly drawn 7 days in advance to encourage all members to mix. We play regular matches against other local golf clubs on a home and away basis

### **Ladies Section:**

The Club Ladies Section is open to all female members of FFGC in all categories. They play their competitions and matches on Wednesdays. They are a small but very friendly section that welcomes new members with open arms. Please ask in the golf shop for the contact details of the section organizer. Their noticeboards are in the ladies changing rooms.

### **Juniors Section:**

The junior members can enter the club section and ladies section events. As well as this they also have their own junior events. Please keep an eye on the noticeboards and communications for details



## **Club Members Panel / Committee**

We ask a group of members to meet 8-10 times a year with the club owner and management to discuss Competition and members events for the main club category as well as the Over 55's section. Details of who sits on this panel will be posted on the noticeboard and we will offer positions to the membership when positions become available. Members are reminded that if they have any questions they can approach a panel member or the Club Management.

At least once a year we also do an open forum for all member to come and ask any questions directly to the club owner and management. Details are published in the newsletters.

The ladies section maintain their own committee and manage their own events, competitions and fixture list. Details of the ladies committee can be found on the ladies noticeboards.