

Ferndown Forest Senior's Section AGM followed by Trophies Presentation.

Forest Inn, Garden room on Tuesday 13th January 2025 at 18:30hrs

Minutes of Meeting

- **Apologies – Secretary**
 - Apologies were received from Andy Tilling, Pete Connell, Roy Mathewws and Keith Dunstan
- **Matters Arising – Secretary**
 - **Appointment of Committee Members**
 - The committee members wish to continue for another season and put themselves forward to serve. There were no objections from the floor. So, the Committee will continue as proposed.
 - Additional members wishing to join the committee. Steve Charlton, who did an excellent job as the Monday competition starter, wishes to join the committee. The secretary, seconds the appointment, in addition, on the night Russell Bartlett put himself forward, this was greatly welcomed by the committee.
 - The updated, 'New' committee will arrange an early get together to discuss roles and responsibilities.
- **Report – Treasurer**
 - The balance carried over from 2024 was £130.94.
 - Participation in the Monday competitions has continued to grow through 2025, August and September were our best months. The Monday competitions generated a nett income of £1053.50.
 - A highly successful Captains Day meant we raised a record sum of £1400 for Prostate Cancer
 - The Christmas lunch raffle generated a profit of £202.00, many thanks to those who donated prizes.
 - Our cash expenditure for the year included raffle prizes, substantial engraving costs, wine for the Christmas lunch and some presentation prizes totalling £844.12
 - This means we have a healthy surplus of £542.32 to carry forward into 2026.
- **Report – Captain**
 - The captain, presenting the lookback of the 2025 Season, in the usual 'ups and downs' manner with great humour to a poor turnout of members.

- Forest Inn – The attendance of Nick from the Forest Inn, was particularly welcome as they form an integral link with the seniors section during the events, particularly the Interclub matches.
- Committee – A few members of the committee, suggest this will be their last year serving, so the additional new members are an ideal way to transition the workings and responsibilities.
- It is very pleasing that there are growing numbers of members supporting both the Monday competitions and the roll ups.
- The Captains Charity Day was a great day with a worthy charity nominated by the committee, namely Prostate Cancer UK. The event, was coordinated and managed by the committee as a group. This is probably, the best example (along with the Christmas Event), where the committee mode of working is best shown. For or 2026 event, we may well look closer to home with localised charities needing the benefit.
- Xmas lunch – Despite the weather, was an excellent day, with the Forest Inn delivering marvellous food and wine along with senior funds supported raffle.
- **Inter club matches 2025**
 - Originally 16 fixtures, but after various issues (Flight Refuelling & Canford School + Ampfield weather), we played 11. The results were W 2, D 2, L 7. We hope to do better this year. Thanks to Colin McMillan who deputised as Captain for the last Somerley game and Christchurch away.
 - Again, we continue to be frustrated with securing a full team. Resulting in last minute calls to members. Hopefully, the improved WhatsApp etc will make it easier this year.
 - The post-match food of Sandwiches, Chips and Sausage Rolls sponsored by Steve and Nick were a great success once again, with a few clubs attempting the copy!
- **Inter club matches 2026**
 - 12 fixtures, including Barmshott Hill @ Dibden Purlieu
 - Hope to see greater interest, with much less selection headaches

● Report – Roll Up

- 86 Competitions run, including 3 x Composite comp's
- **Most Attendances:**
 - Ken Hann 78, next best: Pete Gover and Baggy 67
- **Order of Merit**
 - Winner: Ken Hann 27pts
 - Runner Up: Ian Newman 25pts
 - N.B. Reverse of last year!
 - Average attendance 19 - best 28, lowest 10
 - Best individual Score: Steve Whitehead 48pts
- **Points to note:**
- Not everybody can be in the first group. The organisers routinely ask someone else to draw the cards but, on occasion, the organisers reserve the right to carry out a 'select' draw to enable players of similar abilities to play together. Once a month the Committee members may play a 'Grudge Match' between themselves. This

compensates for the fewer opportunities to use 'reciprocal' opportunities. Should this be unacceptable, feel free to run the roll-ups yourselves.

- To be in the roll-Up, you must be in the draw. Booking earlier Tee times does not enter you into the competition. We need to use those times we are given or we will lose them.
- Unless raining, on completion of your round, please submit your card and money before putting your clubs away/getting coffee. This helps the organiser greatly and, allows other earlier finishers to get away if they so require.

● Points of Issue – Committee

- The following points have been raised by the senior members via email to the Senior's Secretary:
 - Nil

● Proprietor Update - Steve P

- Steve, presented a snap-shot of the current status and an insight into the future developments across the facilities.
 - Course development continues, despite the recent weather. To date 13 of the 18 greens have been completed. With the remaining scheduled.
 - The range underwent a major refurbishment along with the Pro shop.
 - The Assessment of the use of Robots for cutting the fairways was completed. The 18th fairway, as a test case resulted in a major improvement compared to large tractor/machine cutting. As such, the additional purchase of the robots took place late 2025. The cost/benefit is both to the members and proprietors with improved fairways and less costly maintenance bills. Importantly, the 130 manhours saved by using the Robot Mowers will not result in lay-offs, with the staff reallocated work on the course improvements.
 - The Interclub food sponsoring will continue in 2026.

2026 and onwards

- Additional primary drainage work will continue.
- New position and upgrade of the 17th green will result in a more appealing par 3. The tee box will move forward (to assist and make the 16th approach safer) with the green moving back, with a double tier configuration similar to the 14th.
- Forest Inn will undergo a major refurbishment assisted by interior designers with the aim to remove the wall between the garden room and main area.
- The annual, February membership offer will again be available, the discount will make a full 7-day membership below £700, which for our area is an excellent offer.

- The success of the 2025 midweek BBQ series, has resulted in this event being slotted in for a few Saturdays in the summer.
- The Leigh Clarke Memorial Day, will now be managed by a new group to ensure continuity of this event.
- New software will be used shortly; this will merge the various web based and apps into one convenient system. This will result in an 'open' system for tee times.
- The farmland adjacent to the driving range and 2nd hole, is in the final stages of purchase. It is envisaged that a medium sized 9-hole course will be developed within a 3–5-year timeline.

Questions from the floor

- Can we have a net of the 12th green to protect from 13th tee shots?
 - Steve, will review this along with Jon Shimmons
- A number of 'No Shows' are being noticed, with the ability to tee off earlier than scheduled?
 - There are not many no shows, it is largely as a result of players teeing off earlier than scheduled. We operate an eight-minute period between groups, most groups tee off around four-minutes, resulting in periods of inactivity on the first tee.
- Additional toilet halfway?
 - The recent course upgrades, included the electrics to facilitate this. A review will take place this year.
- Mandatory Winter Mats?
 - It is not the intention to make mats compulsory, despite the issue of large divots in winter when players aren't using these. To assist, the groundsmen will have work allocated for this activity.

• Any Other Business

- The committee was thanked for all their efforts during the 2025 season. This was greatly appreciated by the committee.

Meeting Closed

Trophies Presentation

<u>SENIORS SECTION</u>			
<u>TROPHY WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP</u>			
<u>2025</u>			
No.	<u>TROPHY</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>RUNNERS UP</u>
1	LEIGH CLARKE MEMORIAL TROPHY	Kenneth Irving - 42 (net)	Steve Kitney - 41 (net)
2	SINGLES K/O CUP	Richard Godber	Malcolm Coleman
3	PAIRS K/O SHIELD	Ian Newman/Allan Bentley	Pete Connell/Keith Dunstan
4	ERNIE WALKER CUP	Nigel Wright - 62 (net)	John Drake - 63 (net)
5	W.W.1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE TROPHY	Allan Bentley - 63 (net)	Ken Colmer - 63 (net)
6	SENIOR'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (GROSS)	Steve Kitney - 145	Russell Bartlett - 147
7	SENIOR'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (NET)	Keith Dunstan - 130	Bill Norris - 134
8	JOHN MOORE CHALLENGE CUP	Mark Jeffs - 40 points	Russell Bartlett 36 points
9	SUMMER ORDER OF MERIT	Sam McLeod - 70 points	Steve Kitney - 70 points
10	SUMMER ECLECTIC LEAGUE	Steve Kitney - 50	Russell Bartlett - 53
11	WINTER 24/25 ORDER OF MERIT	Sam McLeod	Ken Hann
12	WINTER 24/25 ECLECTIC LEAGUE	Steve Kitney	Russell Bartlett