

## **Forrester Park Veteran' Section Annual General Meeting.**

Held on: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Noon.

Prior to the AGM. the Captain Eric Hoffman, proposed a one minute silence in memory of Dennis Morley which was duly performed.

### **Minutes of the 2016 AGM:**

Due to the collapse of Dennis Morley during the AGM, the minutes were constructed as follows;

The minutes for the 2016 AGM, as compiled, were put on the Vets Notice Board and Website. Please note that due to the collapse of Dennis, the session was not completed, they were missing:

Appointment of officers,  
Appointment of auditor,  
Introduction of New Captain.

At the first Competition after the AGM.

The members attending were asked:

- a) To accept the nominated names for the new committee.
- b) To accept Trevor Baines as the auditor.

The proposer was Reg Brunt and the seconder was Eric Barker.

All members present unanimously confirmed the appointments.

After the competition, the past Captain putted out and the new Captain Eric Hoffman, had his drive in.

At the first committee meeting in October.

Trevor MacDonald withdrew his proposal, out of respect for Dennis Morley.

As the committee were a member short and not wishing to reconvene the AGM, it was suggested that Ian Smith move up from co opted member, to full member of the committee, until the 2017 AGM.

The proposal was put on the Vets Notice Board for 14 days and with no objections, was put into practice.

The new Captain's charity was named as Essex Air Ambulance.

The General Secretary asked that these minutes be accepted which they were by a majority show of hands.

There were no matters arising.

### **Captain's Report:** Eric Hoffman

The Captain said that he had had a devastating start to his year with the tragic death of Dennis Morley, a friend and the Vets Section Competition Secretary. He said that he was pleased to report that Dennis's wife Janet is coping well, with the support of family and friends.

As the year progressed he said that things got better, with the start of the friendly season. These friendly matches went well, with Forrester Park winning most of our home matches but only winning one away match against Clacton.

He said that unfortunately the Committee had had to cancel the Vets Social due to lack of interest from the members.

The Captain said that the Committee had struggled to get any reasonable numbers for the Vet's Guest Day, we finally managed 28 pairs ( 56 people attending ) but in spite of these numbers it was a very successful and enjoyable day.

The Captain said that he had enjoyed the latter part of his term of office. As it had progressed through the year he had found it easier, due mainly to the Committee that he had.

He said that they have been exceptional, and that we as a section, should be very proud and privileged to have such a Committee who work extremely hard to enable us to have such a comfortable and stress free game of golf.

He said that he would especially like to thank Ron Stovell for taking over the post of Competition Secretary, without any hesitation, he under the guidance of Harry Whiteman, has done an exceptional job. He also said that that he just wished he wouldn't send a two page email about the glacier problems in the Artic, when in fact all he wanted to say that he was moving a player to a different time for a competition. He said that he would like to thank Harry for putting him right on many occasions and for the work and time he puts in as General Secretary. He said that he really does a fantastic job.

The Captain said that he would also like to thank Jim Sadler, on behalf of all members, for the unstinting work he has done, not just this year but for many years past, as Treasurer. He said that Jim had had a very difficult year health wise, he believed that Jim had only played two or three times this year but has managed to attend every Wednesday, regardless, to collect monies and do the books. This probably went unnoticed by most people, as they thought he had been playing golf. He said that he thought that all members owe him our extreme gratitude.

The Captain also thanked Mark Beesley who was leaving the Committee after three years as Vice Captain, Captain and Past Captain, on behalf of the Committee and members of the section, for all of his efforts especially through the difficulties in his year of office.

Lastly the Captain said that he would like to wish Mike Donovan a successful year as Captain and he hoped that that everything runs smoothly for him. He said he was confident that with members support, he would make an excellent Captain.

The Captain said that regarding his charity, The Essex Air Ambulance, with members support he had managed to raise £1759. He said that he would like to thank all of you who had donated so generously over the past year.

He said that he would like to end by thanking all members for their support and that he hoped that they would give Mike just as much.

### **Treasurer's Report** Jim Sadler

Jim said that he would like to thank Trevor Baines for undertaking the audit on the account books and confirming that the books he had prepared were consistent with the underlying records. Copies of the audited report had been distributed around the room.

Jim said that the deficit of £173 was occurred as a result of the Committee's policy of returning funds to members of the section. He said that we had originally planned a small surplus but an unforeseen hole in one, by a member, had created the deficit.

Jim said that funds had been returned to members by:

- 1) Paying out 50% of the competition entry fees in prizes and birdies.
- 2) By heavily subsidizing special events, by waiving entry fees and paying for lunches.
- 3) By maintaining the annual subscription at £5.

Any thoughts from members on future activities would be welcomed.

Jim said that we finished the year with a members balance of £1738 and will continue, in the new year, to manage this balance down and return funds, to members, in the form of subsidized competitions.

Jim said that, during the course of the year, we have raised £2141 - £1759 for Essex Air Ambulance and £382 for cancer research.

Jim finished by saying that he would be pleased to answer any questions, concerning the accounts, from the floor.

### **General Secretary's Report** Harry Whiteman

Harry said that first of all he would like to thank Ron Stovell for taking over the position of Acting Competition Secretary, at very short notice, following the death of Dennis last October. He said that it took a lot of pressure off his shoulders for the day to day running of the section and said that he thought that he has made a wonderful job of it. His thanks go to Ron.

He said that the membership continues to thrive with 13 new members joining since the last AGM, 9 since December. The membership continues to hold steady at over 130 members.

Harry said that the diary for 2018 has now been confirmed.

Due to a continuing general lack of support for the friendly matches, with other clubs, he said that we have had to drop Five Lakes from the programme for next year. He said that for quite a number of matches we have only just managed to put a team of 16 together, for the home match against Burnham we only managed 14.

Harry said that it was also getting increasingly difficult to arrange the match dates to suit both clubs, he said that we have had to change several of the dates for next year with the Vets or Senior sections having to go to their General Committees for approval. It is not as easy to arrange matches as it used to be.

Harry said that Alan Wilson now keeps a continuous eye on whether members are playing or not and finding out the reason why. The Committee minutes will contain lists of members not playing in various competitions, for the section's interest.

This year he said, that we have managed, for the first time, to get two members to put their names forward to act as future Captains of the section. He said that he would like to thank Steve King for putting his name forward on the nomination sheet as Vice Captain for the period 2017/2018 and Ian Smith for offering to stand as Vice Captain for the period 2018/2019.

Harry said that he endeavors to keep the Vet's website up to date and that there is now a comprehensive list of information which he hoped all members will read and digest.

Finally Harry said that he would like to thank all of his fellow Committee members for the help and assistance they had given him over the course of this last year. It had been much appreciated.

## **Acting Competition Secretary's Report** Ron Stovell

Ron said that it was a challenge taking up the position the position of Acting Competition Secretary and his thanks go to Harry Whiteman for his assistance and guidance notes which were brilliant in getting him through the first few months. He said that firstly he would like to thank Harry and the rest of the Committee for their support over the year during his probation period and to the section members. He said that he was particularly pleased with all those members who have done the Starters and Card Collectors jobs enabling the results of the competition to be compiled and announced on the day by the Captain and prizes handed out. He also said that the success of the competitions also depended on the members responding to the tick lists etc which made his job easier and which on the whole they did excellently.

He said however that he would like to reiterate a couple of points to keep things progressing smoothly:

- 1) He said that on the tick list he had requested that if you have ticked your name but are subsequently unable to play, you do not cross out the tick but instead write **NO** next to your name. He said that whilst a majority of members obey this request a number do not causing confusion. Please follow these instructions.
- 2) He also said that late entry sheets are put up with all competition sheets. When filling in their name, he asked, that all members print their name, not write it. He said that if he can't read the name there is no way of finding out who it is.
- 3) He said that in addition, for Winter League competitions both players must tick their names to be put into the competition. If only one of the pair ticks, he said he would assume that the other can't play and will match you with someone else for the competition.

Ron said that he also asked all members to check whether they are in the competition before putting their name in as a late entry. It means a lot more effort if he has to check the lists every time.

He also said that that it would help him if when cancelling from a competition, the member prints his name but also writes his allocated tee time as well.

At this point Alan Wilson reminded members that it was advisable that a number of them were trained in the operation of the club defibrillator and CPR and said that volunteers were always welcome. He also said that a member of every group that plays on the course, should have a mobile phone with them for emergencies.

## **To Receive Proposals**

Two proposals were receive for this year's AGM:

### Proposal no.1

Following a committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and due to the very poor response from members and associated cancellation costs, your Committee unanimously propose that the Vets Social be deleted from the Vets calendar for 2018 and future years.

Proposed by the Vets Committee:

This proposal was put to the members present and was passed by a majority show of hands.

### Proposal no. 2

That all monies ( 100% ) returned to the Veterans Section from the sale of the Christmas Hamper draw tickets, should be given to the Captain's Charity Fund and not be split between the Vets Captain's Charity and Veterans Section funds, as has happened over the last few years.

Proposed by Roy Valentine and Gerry Dixon:

A general discussion ensued during which it was pointed out that the Christmas draw was registered as a charity with the Maldon Council and all monies collected were required to go to charity.

This proposal was put to the members present and was passed by a majority show of hands.

### Appointment of Officers

With Mark Beesley deciding to stand down from the Vets Committee, the nominations, which had been individually proposed and seconded, were:

New Captain	Mike Donovan
Vice Captain	Steve King
General Secretary	Harry Whiteman
Competition Secretary	Ron Stovell
Treasurer	Jim Sadler
Committee Members	Barry Trickett Alan Wilson Ian Smith

The Immediate Past Captain would be Eric Hoffman

These appointments were proposed by Terry Shuttleworth and seconded by Gerald Pearson.

The proposal was put to the members present and was passed by a majority show of hands.

These persons now form the Committee for the term to the next AGM on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2018.

### Appointment of Auditor

Jim Sadler said that Trevor Baines the current auditor had decided not to continue in the position and Jim thanked him for his past services. Jim asked the members present if anyone was interested in taking up the vacant position. Peter Gamester volunteered to take up the position for future audits. The offer was gratefully accepted by the Committee.

### Introduction of New Captain

The Captain introduced the new Captain Mike Donovan to the meeting and presented him with his official shirt, sweater and tankard.

In reply the new Captain Mike Donovan said:

Firstly that he would like to thank Eric for the excellent job that he had done in his term of office. He said that Eric had been a great help to himself as Vice Captain and that he was sure that he would be calling on his experience over the last year as Mike goes forward for next year.

Mike said that he would like to reiterate Eric's comments regarding the Committee and the marvelous job they have, this year, he said that he was so pleased that they have all agreed to stay on the Committee for next year.

He then said that he would like to say a few words about the charity he was supporting for his term of office. The charity will be the Somerville Foundation. He said that both he and the Ladies Captain for next year ( Jo Dixon ) would be supporting the same charity.

He said that it was a national charity based in Ipswich and that it supports patients with complex heart conditions who survive into adulthood through determination and the efforts of the heart surgeons.

In 1 in 100 of live births there is a heart disorder and thanks to advances in the last 50 years, there are many more patients surviving. Once only 15% would have made it to adulthood but now this has increased to 85% to 95%.

The Somerville Foundation provides much needed support for patients and their families. 92% of the money raised goes into the much needed care this charity provides.

At this point the AGM ended and the members retired outside for the Past Captain's Putt Out and the New Captain's Drive In.