



FORUM - MONDAY 1st of NOVEMBER 2016

Many thanks to all the members who took the time to attend the above Club Forum, as I said the majority of our members “go with the flow” however the Board need that minority to keep us in our place and learn really what our membership want and would like to see change so your participation and feedback is much appreciated.

Summarised below are the main points we discussed.

The £35,000 our landlord “demanded” has now been paid in full – as a result of this payment he has committed to assisting the Club, if need be for the next 3 years.

The Club is moving forward and will only get better as time moves on with the Stephen Gallacher Foundation connection and the Love.Golf venture planned to commence in mid January I have been proactive in “selling” and utilising the assets we have.

It was very encouraging to hear Rab Ures’ words of support and appreciation for the Boards efforts and also the fact that Rab feels there is a more positive atmosphere and feeling in and around the golf club recently.

The “still” excellent condition of the course was noted and both members and visitors have commented recently on how good the whole Swanston experience is only recently a Scottish Golf Board member, Malcolm Kpedekpo tweeted *“Team match @SwanstonGolf today. Golf course busy, clubhouse packed with golfers/non golfers, range full, Footgolf on 9 hole. Great set up “.*

Coring of the greens will be started in the next couple of weeks.

The bunker, left of the second green is being “filled in” as it is high maintenance for such a small feature – to clear things up I agreed with Mike Keogh that he could do this – I like to leave Mike alone to make the decisions in relation to how the course is set up and how he maintains it unless there is a “major” alteration and this was not the case with this bunker.

Members MUST play from the artificial tees and NOT tee up in front of them as is clearly happening Our greenstaff must protect the tees in the colder months and if this unacceptable behaviour continues tees will be put well forward on the fairways – a minority of members are spoiling it for the majority.

I will ask the greenstaff to make holes in the mats to make it easier to get a tee into them.

Rubber pyramid tees are available in the Shop!

I will also ask the greenstaff if the “ball pick up” pins can be replaced on the putting green adjacent to the Clubhouse.

The topic of MATS during the colder months was discussed and a definite decision will be made by the end of November at the latest – they will NOT be optional – it will be either YES or NO and in the interests of the greenstaff and protecting the course I would think it will be COMPULSORY to use a MAT – we will look at other options and an announcement will be made however by the show of hands by those present at the Forum in favour of the MATS it was most encouraging to see most members are happy to use the MATS.

The bell on the right of the 2nd green will be relocated to the left of the green and I will also speak to Mike Keogh regarding the rough between the 4th and 1st holes.

Due to a double booking, this years' Prizegiving has been moved to Friday the 3rd of February 2017, I apologise for any inconvenience this causes – despite booking the Brasserie over a year ago for the 2nd of December I have been told that this is the Friday our landlord always holds his Christmas Party for his tenants and staff.

Please make a note of this in your diaries/phones.

The 2017 Club Fixtures Meeting will be on Monday the 14th of November – at the Forum we discussed moving the Club Championship to later in the year, mid August was suggested and we will be looking at switching the Club Championships to August in 2017 and more than likely future years too.

The Footgolf has been a great success and a great help financially to the Club and most members now have accepted this joint venture.

We currently split the income 50/50 however I will be holding talks with Footgolf Scotland to explain to them why we will be looking for at least 60% of the income from April 2017.

In recognition of the reduced time the Templar Course is available to Templar members their fee in 2017 has been substantially dropped to £200.

The Stephen Gallacher Foundation is in the process of sourcing suitable portakabins and hope to be based at Swanston before the end of the year and their "fee" will be used to offset our rent from 2017 onwards.

We will look into the possibility of holding a few events in the Golfers Bar during the winter – like a Rules Night, a Quiz and a Q & A event involving sport and media names.

All in all a very positive meeting however once again I would stress that we must try and increase our membership numbers and at the suggestion of one of the Forum attendees with immediate effect all members will be allowed to bring up a maximum of 4 potential members to play the course FREE of charge up until the 28th of February 2017

I would hope that this concession will not be abused and seriously only potential members are brought for a game.

We do offer the best golfing facilities in and around Edinburgh and our fees are less expensive than the majority of our neighbouring Clubs.

Mike Robson
Club Manager/Secretary
2nd November 2016