**Report to the FP Club for 2020**

Like the activities of so many during 2020, the Former Pupils’ Golf Club’s golfing and social year was sadly abbreviated (as, consequently, is this report).

The year nevertheless started promisingly, with another well-attended AGM at which, alongside the earnest constitutional business, the assembled members were – in what is becoming something of beloved tradition – entertained and informed by resident oenophile Jim Preacher. Alas, that was to prove the last of the Club’s revelry for some time, the Annual Dinner and Spring Meeting to Panmure falling victim to lockdown.

When restrictions did finally lift, it was at Muirfield that members assembled for the Summer Meeting. The otherwise untrammelled joy of a return to the links on a lovely midsummer’s evening was tempered only by rough that suggested that nature had not only ‘healed’,but had gained superpowers. But even especially fierce rough proved no obstacle for perennial winner, Alan Anderson (74). Victor in the handicap competition was Euan Robertson (35 points).

Happily, we also managed to hold the Autumn Meeting at Lanark, on a wonderfully sunny – if rather breezy – Sunday in September. Alasdair McLeish (86) and Donald Lowe (31 points) prevailed.

One of the favourite outings of the year – that of the Rabbits – also took place, with George Bee running out a worthy winner at Ratho.

The Club had mixed success in external competitions, beating Heriots FPGC in the Grand Match / Volvo Trophy, and recording a pleasingly convincing win over Heriots, Edinburgh Academicals and Watsonians in the Edinburgh Cup (albeit unfortunately not repeating that success in the under-35 version of it). The Glasgow Club took the spoils in the latest instalment of that fixture. There was also defeat to the schoolboys at Murrayfield. If nothing else, we can perhaps take comfort that in these times of unprecedented disruption there at least some constants…

Other competitions regrettably succumbed to the year’s turmoil. We therefore look forward with hope and extra enthusiasm to those competitions (the Spring Meeting, new ‘1887 Trophy”, Gilbert Archer and Summer Singles and Foursomes) in the coming season.

A global pandemic achieved what tempests and the odd hangover could not and forced cancellation of 2020’s Retreat. But that no doubt merely means that Retreaters shall be like coiled springs ready for the competition and camaraderie of this year’s excursion to Morayshire.

So 2020 was a fitful golfing year, but one undoubtedly brightened by the resilience, enthusiasm and conviviality of the Club’s members on the occasions on which we could gather.

Rory Thomson

CAPTAIN.