



Senior Men's Section - Captain's Newsletter January 2018

Welcome To 2018. Happy New Year! With Christmas receding in our memories and, for some, New Year resolutions already looking a little shaky, our thoughts turn to losing those extra pounds by getting out on the golf course. For 2018, the Seniors have a full and ambitious programme of competitions and fixtures to look forward to.

SMS Subscriptions. It is that time of year to pay your respective subs. Through careful management we have managed to keep it to £5 this year – it hasn't changed in 20 years, but this does depend on everyone's support. **Please pay your subscriptions ASAP.**

Changes to Men's and Ladies' Handicaps. From 1 Jan 18, CONGU has applied the requirement for golf clubs to change the maximum handicap for both men and ladies to 54. On your behalf, I asked if the How-Did-I-Do system has incorporated this change and was assured that this is already done. I further asked if those players on the maximum handicap (28) would potentially increase through submission of qualifying scorecards or whether submission of supplementary scorecards for re-classification purposes was required. Both options are true. Essentially, anyone can submit supplementary score cards at any time and of course playing handicaps can increase (or decrease) through any qualifying round. However, for boarded competitions the maximum playing handicap will remain at 28. This does not mean that players with a handicap greater than 28 cannot play; they can enter boarded competitions but their handicap allowance will be 28. On anything regarding handicaps please see a member of the committee.

On-course Work. No doubt many of you are aware that work to replace the bridges at the 7th and 13th holes is underway and that work is being carried out on the 7th tee. This work is due to be completed, weather permitting, by the end of January. This naturally means there will be restricted access to those holes as the work progresses. Therefore, please check with the staff in the Pro Shop as to the state of any temporary restrictions.

Ron's Rules.

Q. Do the rules permit you to lift your ball in a bunker if it interferes with the play of a fellow competitor?

A. Yes. Under Rule 20-3 a ball may be lifted. The ball must be marked before lifting and must not be cleaned. The original lie must be re-created as nearly as possible and the ball must be placed in that lie. It is permitted to rake the bunker to recreate the original lie. Also, in stroke play, a player required to lift his ball may play first rather than lift the ball.

Mike Murray-Smith