



# Clandon Regis Golf Club

## Captains' Newsletter - Winter 2019

### Competition News



Happy New Year to all. We hope that 2019 brings you great golf, and much enjoyment.

There is less to report on the golfing front in this newsletter, as most competitions were finished before our autumn newsletter. The ladies' section entered a team in the Pearson Trophy, a competition for clubs in Kent, Surrey, Middlesex and Hertfordshire. There are 7 ladies in each team, with handicaps from 13 to 32. The first stage is a league with three other clubs. The other teams in their league were Coombe Wood, Milford and Effingham. The ladies team won their league, winning most of their matches by big margins. The team now goes through to the Surrey knock-out stage. They will find out their next opponents later this winter. Well done to the ladies, ably captained by Claire Charlier.



A very successful Presentation night was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Many major trophies were formally presented, particularly the Club Champions – Ed Keep as Men's Champion, Amanda Harris as Ladies' Champion, and Louis Lepere as Junior Champion. Photos are on the club website.



The Men's Champion of champions was won by Ed Keep, and the Ladies' Champion of champions was won by Janet Corcoran.

A new men's competition – the "jingle Jangle" was held just before Christmas, and will become an annual event. It was won by Garth Birtles and Darren Drinkwater. Both the Men's section

and the Ladies' section held very successful Christmas events.



The Annual Cross Country competition was held on 29 December in benign conditions. The men's competition was won by Kris Steadman, and the ladies' competition was won by Terri Littlewood. Terri also won the raffle for the much-coveted parking spot for the captains' charity.

In response to requests from members, a number of non-qualifying competitions will be held in February and March, so if you were worried about your handicap suffering from winter golf, put aside those worries and take part. There will be still be one qualifier a month.

### Rules

New Rules of golf came into force on 1 January 2019. They are supposed to be simpler than the old version, and there are fewer of them. Ian Mitchell, our rules guru, has redrafted our local rules to take account of the new rules, and has made presentations to members about them. Now, we know that all our readers will have assiduously read all the new rules, including the recently circulated new local rules for CRGC. But just in case some of you may have missed them, Ian has drafted a summary of the major changes to the rules which can be found on the [club's web site](#) under "golf", along with a copy of the new local rules. The link also contains some useful videos about the new rules. Please make sure you have a copy of the local rules with you when play at CRGC. We gave details of the link to the new rules on the R&A's web site in our last newsletter, [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org). You can download an app to your phone/tablet from the R&A's web site. The explanations of the new rules, especially the diagrams which illustrate "relief area" and "reference point", are very useful. You will need to be familiar with these new definitions as they occur so frequently. Perhaps we might have a little leeway about phones on the course when players are checking the rules using the R&A's app. The R&A's app has a very useful search facility.

Which of the new rules are most important to you will depend, at least to some extent, on your playing experience and any rules disagreements you may have had in the past.

However, we thought it might be helpful if we mentioned some of the rules which we think you are most likely to come across most frequently. All apply from 1 January 2019. Before reading the next section you might find it useful to have available either the downloaded version of the new rules or the free booklet which the club has given out.

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## Rules cont...

Dropping balls: this is no longer from shoulder height. You now drop balls from knee height. It means knee height, not bend your knee and then drop from there. For those with bad backs, there will be a bit of leeway. The rules say that committees should accept a drop where the player has made all reasonable efforts to drop from knee height taking account of a player's physical limitations. The ball has to both land in the relief area and stay in the relief area. Please see rule 14.3;

You can leave the flagstick in the hole when putting. If the ball lodges against the flag stick as long as any part of it is below the surface of the green then the ball is holed. Will this lead to less attending flagsticks? It could certainly help to speed up play. It might be useful on nasty down hill puts. It would also reduce damage to greens around the holes which results from attending the flagstick especially in the winter.

You can ground your club in a penalty area (red or yellow marked areas). Bunkers: you cannot ground your club just behind or just in front of your ball, nor can you use your club to test the sand. Otherwise you can put your club down in a bunker.

The time allowed for looking for a lost ball is now 3 minutes from the time you start to look for it (rule 18.2a).

If you ACCIDENTALLY move your ball, for example when you are looking for it under leaves, there is now no penalty – you must replace it in its original position.

Players now have an additional option in bunkers. If your ball is unplayable in a bunker (and remember you can declare it unplayable whether or not it is actually unplayable), then you have a number of choices (rule 19.3): as existing you can drop it in the bunker as if the bunker is a red penalty area (see above) and take a one stroke penalty, or you can go back to where you hit your original shot into the bunker with a one shot penalty (stroke and distance) OR under the new rules you can go "back on a line" from the position of your ball in the bunker (ie not where it first crossed the outer edge of the bunker) and the flagstick, outside the bunker, as far back as you like, and take a two shot penalty. You will often still be hitting over the bunker, but players who hate bunkers might want to take advantage of this new rule.

## Pace of Play

Slow play is possibly the single biggest cause of frustration in golf. Being stuck behind a group who are playing slowly but won't let you through is frustrating, and is poor etiquette on their part. Remember it doesn't matter how important your match is, if the group behind is playing faster than you then please call them through. It is no excuse to think (or say) "we are playing a match".

No-one believes that they are a slow player. But if you lose sight of the group in front while the group behind you seem to be there all the time waiting to take their shots, then the group behind you is faster than your group and should be called through, even if you think you are playing quickly.

Two of the new rules, and two of the new recommendations should speed up play. The new rules are that you can leave the flagstick in when putting, and the time limit for searching for a ball is now 3 minutes from when the search starts. The new recommendations are that you should play ready golf in stroke play as long as it is safe to do so, and you should take no longer than 40 seconds to play a shot (including puts). BUT the 3 minutes is not a margin given to you before you call the following group through. If they are playing faster than you, call them through.

Anecdotally, based on limited experience, leaving the flagstick in for the majority of puts saves more time than you would expect – please try it. Ready golf also seems to save a lot of time. We doubt whether many members take the full 40 seconds to take a shot, but why not ask one of your friends to time you?

A little reminder that some competitions are sign ups and roll ups as well. For example the Danny Cup for men and the Charlier Cup for ladies are played with sign ups for part of the day, but can be played as a roll up for the rest of the day. This means, for example, that members who work within easy travelling distance of the club can play in the Danny Cup/Charlier Cup later in the afternoon.

Some dates for your diaries:

22 March: Captains' charity bridge evening;

25 March: 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Lynne trophy for seniors;

31 March: Celts v Oppressors;

3<sup>rd</sup> April: 1<sup>st</sup> round of Danny Cup for men;

4<sup>th</sup> April: 1<sup>st</sup> round of Charlier Cup for ladies.

The Quaich will be in October this year, but in 2020 it will be played in the summer.

There will be a New Comers' Cup played in September, and the club is holding a special event for new members and their guests on 8 February. We hope for good weather for this event.

There are, of course, weekly and monthly competitions. Early in the year these are often informal fun competitions, so why not play?

Enjoy your golf. Linda and Bruce.