



There was a collective sigh of relief, at least in England, as golfers were allowed to return to their courses last week.

Special thanks to Pannal's management and committees who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes, in conjunction with England Golf and YUGC, to ensure that Pannal was totally prepared and ready for players to resume at the first opportunity on Wednesday morning. Special thanks also to the greenkeeping team who, despite only being allowed to do essential maintenance during the past two months, have managed to keep the course in great shape.

The lockdown came into being just as Pannal's new Captains were about to commence their year. The traditional "Drive-in" has been postponed until later, but the three Captains were on hand at 7:30 on a sunny Wednesday morning as part of the "Big Tee Off". Members who had donated to the Captains' Charity were entered into a special draw to determine who would partner the Captains in the first three tee times. The lucky winners were Ben Chumas who accompanied Junior Captain Jamie Hardcastle at 7:30. Rob Penman teed off at 7:40 with Men's Captain Bruce Allison, who was contacted later by the BBC for his views on golf commencing again. Alison Kitson was the last to tee off at 7:50, partnering Ladies' Captain Annie Burke. A total of £1320 was raised for St Michael's Hospice, with the Just Giving page remaining open on the website all year.

Since then, with play restricted to two-balls and tee times 10 minutes apart, members have initially been asked to book a maximum of two rounds per week, to enable as many people to play as possible. The new temporary protocols may seem a bit alien at first, but are a small price to pay in order to stay safe as we play. It may be some time before competitive golf can resume, but in the meantime it is great to be "back in the swing" once more.



Ben Chumas and Jamie Hardcastle (Junior Captain)



Rob Penman and Bruce Allison (Men's Captain)



Alison Kitson and Annie Burke (Ladies' Captain)