



CORONAVIRUS ACTION PLAN

A statement by the Board – 18 March 2020

This statement has been produced to provide advice for members on the way ahead for the Club, taking account of the latest public pronouncements by the Government. Further statements will be provided if significant changes need to be introduced.

The prime objective of the Board is to keep the course available for the enjoyment of members, while managing the extraordinary risks posed by the Covid-19 crisis.

The arrangements described below will come into effect immediately.

The Clubhouse

Please do not come to the clubhouse if:

- You are feeling unwell.
- You have been in a high-risk area of the world in the last 3 weeks.
- Within the last 14 days you have been in contact with people who have the virus or who have been advised to self-isolate.

Please comply with sensible hygiene measures at the clubhouse:

- Wash your hands immediately upon entering the clubhouse. [Note: the Club will continue to try to obtain stocks of hand-sanitisers. In the meantime, please use the existing facilities in the changing rooms and toilets.]
- If you cough or sneeze, use a tissue and bin it – and then wash your hands.
- Keep all internal doors open so members and staff are not touching handles.
- Ensure that used paper towels are placed inside disposal bins, rather than on the floor. Notify the staff if a bin is full.
- In the bar and dining room, limit tables to 4 people – and keep the tables at least 2 metres apart.
- At the bar use cards when possible in order to reduce the use of cash.
- Assist staff to have access so that surfaces that objects and surfaces that are touched regularly can be frequently cleaned and disinfected.

Opening hours:

- Bar and catering services will only be available from 0900 to 1700 each day.
- The clubhouse will be closed shortly after 1700 each day and so there will then be no access to the changing rooms (or lockers) or toilets. So you may need to change in the car park.

Within the clubhouse you are advised to follow government guidelines on social distancing. Avoid arranging roll-ups or prize-giving within the clubhouse.

The Course

Broadly, our approach is that you should still be able to play social golf – but (following government advice) we need to avoid large gatherings of people and so you should take sensible measures to reduce your risk of infection by following advice on social distancing.

Until further notice, most of the events that are organised by the Club (or by sections within the Club, such as the Ladies, the Vets and the Pounders) will be cancelled or postponed, as appropriate. We will take advice from England Golf about the feasibility of continuing with any of our Club competitions; for now, it looks as though most will need to be cancelled or postponed – due notice will be given of any competitions we can retain. In the absence of these events the focus will largely be on ‘social golf’ whereby members are simply able to turn up and play. However, our knock-out competitions will continue (because they only involve small numbers of players).

We encourage you NOT to wait in large groups on the 1st Tee because of the increased risk of infection from other people. Organisers of the Club’s various roll-up groups are asked to revise their arrangements accordingly. We recognise that this is a difficult limitation and we will monitor how it works. If it proves very difficult to achieve organisers should consider adopting the approach used for Captain’s Evenings in 2019 whereby members were able to book a tee-time (on-line via Club V1 or by phoning the Pro Shop).

When playing golf, minimise your contact with surfaces that are likely to have been touched by others. When possible, leave the pin in when putting and ideally lift the ball from the hole using a gloved hand. The cups in the holes have been inverted so that the base is now only about one inch below the surface, thus easing the process of retrieving your ball. Also, the rakes have been removed from the bunkers to reduce that risk of cross-infection.

Club management

We recognise that some members (especially older members and those with underlying health conditions) will decide to stay away from the Club for a while and this will have an impact on Club finances. Bar & catering income from visiting groups, Sunday lunches, etc will also be hit. The Board, therefore, will take sensible steps to reduce costs over the coming months.

Future developments

Staff will be asked to self-isolate for the requisite period if they have symptoms. If significant numbers of staff are affected, the opening arrangements for the Clubhouse will have to be changed – and quite possibly at very short notice. Any such changes will be notified via Club V1.

If a member of staff is tested positive for coronavirus (or even a club member who has been to the Club in recent days), we may have to close the clubhouse entirely, send all employees home to self-isolate and arrange for the clubhouse to be deep-cleaned.

It is possible that at any time the Government may change their advice (which could become a legal instruction – e.g. to force the closure of bars, etc.) and this will naturally affect everything we do.

Finally

It is important that, as a members club, we all do our very best to look after our members and our staff. If you are feeling unwell or have a cough or a fever, please do not come to the clubhouse or the course – and follow government advice.