

Hello dear members,

I will start with the recent Q&A held with the members. It is our intention to hold Q&A sessions with members every 6 months, in order to give you all a chance to raise any concerns and ask any questions for the board to answer.

So we sent out notification of this session which was held on the 14th October. We received a few questions sent in by email and we had a couple more on the evening itself.....

1. Mark Newell commented on the general condition of the course, where bunkers, tees and areas for GUR all need attention. Richard Evans, our head greenkeeper was present and agreed that there is still a lot to do on the course. He has a full team now and can start working through the roadmap.
Rory (GM) stated that RE is preparing a report for the board regarding the work to be done in the bunkers and together they are doing a review of all tee areas. There will now be more GUR/roping off of areas, which need attention during the winter months.
2. Veeru Patel asked about a standardised presentation of tees with marker posts, map of hole, ball washer, bin etc.
This will be part of the review for tee areas.
3. Steve Illingworth asked about the new 4th tee.... Making it into a proper tee with a proper path.
RE said he would start working on this within the next month and move the blue tee to the back of the yellow tee temporarily.
4. Gary McAllister asked about future investment in more practice areas ?
A driving range is a big project for the future development. However in the meantime, we are considering a new chipping area to the right of the 1st tee in 2022.
5. Paul Vasdev – can we cut back the big tree on the right from the 7th tee ?
RE agreed to get tree surgeons in for this and many other trees to be identified. He will make a report back to the board.
6. Roy De Souza – extra signage on the 13th to warn walkers on the path ?
Yes this was agreed and Rory will deal with this.
7. Bill Rookes asked about our catering hours, especially on winter mornings ?
Rory will be meeting with Alex (Caterer) to discuss the service required for members, even if not profitable at particular times, as long as his overall SP operation makes a profit.
8. Bill Rookes asked if we could consider special membership discount for older members, who do not play much in the winter?
Barry Pearce answered that this was difficult as other sections of the club would also have reasons to ask for discounts, when not playing. Where would we draw the line?

9. Jamie Cox explained that he is chairing the working party reviewing our online booking system.
He would welcome feedback from members. This was supported by Monty Powell.
10. Martin Hughes asked why has the function income dropped dramatically, even pre-pandemic ?
Keith Povah did not know why this had happened in 2019. KP only joined the board in Oct.2019, but assured Martin that he was on the case now to build it up again we were organising some professional photography, creating a new function brochure, a revamped website and more targeted advertising for 2022.
11. Martin Hughes – why does the club not receive a commission from lessons given by the professionals? The board have been looking into this and have decided that we will not take commission off the professionals employed by the club. But there will be a fee for any other professionals using our facilities.
12. Martin Hughes asked why are the accounts so far behind and what is the current situation please ?
Neal Davies replied with the current figures, showing a much healthier situation than before, mostly due to Covid. KP confirmed that the AGM with audited accounts would happen at the beginning of December.
13. Vic Fook – what are current membership numbers, compared to pre-pandemic ?
BP answered 534 compared to 405. This lead on to discussion about what the numbers should be before we say we are full. We are not really sure. We will see what happens over the winter months, but we are remaining open for now.
14. Mitch Dowling – can we have team shirts for club teams ? KP said that we felt this was a good idea. It would not be mandatory but members who represented the club, would be recommended to buy a club team shirt from the pro-shop.
KP would investigate the costs of this with Mick Taylor.
15. Bipin Patel – is there a plan to recruit more lady members ?
Barry Pearce said this is something he wished to explore and Jamie Cox volunteered a few ideas.
16. Bipin Patel asked about corporate sponsorship ? KP confirmed that we are hoping to stage a pro-am next May, when there will be sponsorship packages for each hole. Sponsorship will also be discussed for other items like the patio planters, towels in the changing rooms, golf towels for renewals, possibly even for items like SP team polo shirts and so on. More details to follow.
17. Paul Vasdev asked if we could re-introduce table service on the patio for special events next Summer ?
Bharat replied that this would be considered and he would discuss with Rory, regarding staff costs.
18. Steve Coyne asked about course irrigation ? Keith Povah replied that this has been on the board agenda for the past 18 months and it is now back as a priority issue.

In addition to the many issues discussed above, the board has a pending list of matters, set out in priority order for the next 5-6 months and we will keep the members informed as we work our way through that list.

Other issues recently discussed at our last board meeting include –

- We are installing a few more CCTV cameras in the clubhouse, as well as a new digital notice-board in the lobby area.
- We will be making a decision very soon regarding GPS in our buggies.
- Details will be sent out soon regarding our proposed New Year's Eve party.
- We want to set up a mentoring scheme for new members, to help them get to know how the club operates and to introduce them to other members, as required. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for new members, please let us know.
- Regretfully we feel that we do now have to address the behaviour of members in the players' bar. Over the past 2 years, it has become a lot noisier with a lot more shouting, a lot more bad language and more recently we have seen incidents, showing a lack of respect to others. This is unacceptable in a private members' club and unfortunately future incidents will have to result in stronger written warnings.
- We are going to invest in a new illuminated sign at the front of the club.
- Next year we are going to review our local rules.
- We are setting up a new 'yellow card/red card' system with regards to golf and competition misdemeanours by members, which we think will be much fairer.
- We have reviewed the few 'house' projects under discussion at the moment and it seems more and more difficult to get companies to quote for these various jobs. So we have decided that we will now only go out to tender (for 3 quotes) for any jobs worth in excess of £ 5000.
- One such project could well be the whole ground space by the pro shop and the first tee, which may need new tarmac or similar, as the current rubber flooring is now coming up and could become a Health and Safety risk. If there are any members who wish to quote for this job, please let us know ASAP.
- Finally as winter approaches and we get more rain, we are going to review the use of our 2-seater buggies on a daily basis and you will be informed, if buggies will NOT be allowed, for the benefit of the course. Thank you for your understanding.

As always, thank you for reading this and please let your board know if you have any questions or suggestions. Best regards, Keith Povah, Chairman.