



Chairman's Blog – January 2020

Welcome to the first Chairman's Blog of 2020 and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Members a Happy New Year.

The Christmas festivities were excellent at the Club, with the Children's Christmas Party, Christmas Fayre, the Quiz night, the Carols and Karaoke on Christmas Eve, and the traditional Boxing Day Scramble all well supported by members. The New Year's Eve party was a different format this year in response to many requests. It was certainly worth trying a different style of celebration, and we will be looking at the way forward later in the year for the next NYE.

A big thank you to Alex and his team for raising the bar for Catering, they are doing a great job, and also to Sandra for keeping the half-way hut open during this period of terrible weather. Well done to both teams.

I would also like to take a moments pause to think about members we have lost lately, including our dear friends Bernard O'Connor, Phil Chandler and Del Byrne who passed away recently.

Below is a short summary of some of the major points discussed at the last Board Meeting:

Steve Healy

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Steve Healy for his many years on the Board as both Chairman and Social Director. We have all enjoyed the fruits of his labour at the many successful Social evenings here at the club, and the Board were richer for his sound sage advice, especially over the past couple of years. Steve stepped down for personal reasons from the Board and I'm sure the whole membership will join us in thanking him for his service. He helped us all out by seeing through the Social activities of late, including a wonderful evening last week with a David Bowie tribute act, which went down a storm. It is hoped that he will be booked to return and play to a larger audience.

Social Vacancy

Due to Steve's departure, we now have a vacancy to act as either Social Director, or if necessary, a Social Organiser without having to serve as a Director. If anyone has an interest in helping the club, then please let any of the Board or General Manager know.

Junior Organiser

Karen Dunt has stepped down as one of the Junior Organisers, and our thanks go out to Karen, who along with Mell have looked after the Juniors. If anyone wishes to put their name forward to help the Junior Section, again, just let a Board Member or Steve know.

Treasurer's Report

Year to date figures to October were presented by Neal, and things are ticking along expected lines. The Bar takings are somewhat down, so get those glasses filled! Don't forget that we have a great facility here, so if you or someone you know are hosting a celebration, do enquire through Steve or Tonia and we can check availability to have a party or dinner here. Expenses are still well managed and are regularly reviewed. The "top line" income is still the most crucial part of the club's success, including membership subs, green fees and societies, buggy income, external events etc.

Captain

The Captain has been overwhelmed by the support and kindness shown towards him. His Away Day is full with 72 members going to Stoke-by Nayland in July for a couple of days golf and dinner. Just a reminder from Paul that the deposit of £100 is required by 31st January if you want to secure your spot, as we do now have reserves.

Membership

Membership continues to rise, which at this time of year bucks the trend among clubs. We have recently recruited 3 full members, 1 Cat E and 1 5 Day, with many others "in the pipeline". The current Membership offers continue to draw interest. Some local club's members have been contacting us for information about membership as many have had elongated periods of course closure. It bodes well that we continue to present such a great course in atrocious conditions. We are constantly in touch with what is happening at local clubs and must be prepared for speedy responses for anyone looking for new clubs.

Marketing

Keith presented his first Marketing report and many ideas flowed. We will be concentrating on membership recruitment obviously, but also increasing society and green fee income as previously stated, together with external events. It was proposed to extend the Reciprocal arrangements to more local clubs.

Golf and Greens

The course is in good condition for the time of year. The rain has been a constant thorn in the side of the green staff, but they continue to amaze us with the quality of the greens and the thankless task of repairing bunkers from wash-outs etc. Richard and his team have been producing excellent videos and photos on the Instagram page "shirleyparkgreenkeepers". Just go to the Forum page on our website and click the photograph to access their page. Hit "Follow" and you will get notification of their posts. They are often eye-opening!

The 13th Tee Project has been postponed this winter, partly to ensure we have enough Capital but equally because of the extreme ground conditions.

House

The position of the air shoe cleaner was discussed. This was installed primarily for shoes, but with so many members and visitors now using electric trolleys, we have to re-think this facility to make it more comfortable for users. It was proposed to extend a concrete plinth in between the external walls of the snooker room and changing room to both accommodate the Cycle Rack and a new larger grid to stop the path becoming so muddy and unsightly. Other smaller jobs will be carried out shortly.

I hope that the spring will soon be upon us and look forward to seeing you out on the course.

Kind regards

Nick Phipps

Nick Phipps
Chairman