

Hello dear members,

Sorry that it has been a while since my last blog, but as you probably realise it has been a very busy period. Firstly with the small matter of replacing our long-standing GM.... as you may have read, we received about a dozen applicants, 4 of them stood out with good experience. We went through the interview process and decided on Rory O'Keeffe, who will have just joined us, by the time you read this message. So a very warm welcome to Rory.

Many of you may also have seen a familiar face in the offices upstairs recently. Jayne Wilding who was our assistant secretary 8 or 9 years ago, has been helping out to cover for some sick leave. She has been a great help. Thank you, Jayne.

Finally government restrictions have now been relaxed and even I managed a few (only a few) putts this week without the flag being in the hole. Rakes are back in the bunkers and we realise that we may need to invest in a few more rakes now.

**PLEASE RAKE THE BUNKERS AND PLEASE REPAIR YOUR PITCH MARKS !!**

Now another polite reminder about our beloved online booking system ..... following members' feedback received from our survey, the board decided to KEEP THE BOOKING SYSTEM, but we also recognised that there are many different views on how the system should operate, so we decided to constantly review the system and tweak it where necessary, to accommodate the views of members. We are looking to adopt what is now called a hybrid version of the system and the first thing we are currently reviewing is how best to use the system for Saturday and Sunday mornings. We will keep you informed.

The golf course roadmap is now underway and will be updated, probably in August. Richard and his team are still one man down and we are trying to recruit now – preferably someone with experience. If not successful, then it will be another apprentice.

With the current weather the course is looking really good right now, but still many course projects are under consideration at the moment.... drainage, re-surfacing a few greens, repairing the paths, marking off GUR and of course planning for winter.

There are many other matters that have been discussed recently.....

1. In the autumn we are going to look at the economics of buying a GPS system on our buggies. Watch this space for more information.
2. Our membership now stands at 500 golfing members. We are going to carry out some more research into what is the magical number before saying we are 'full'.
3. Our Captain, Steve Denman now has his drive-in organised for Saturday 21 August and his away-day (weekend) is now confirmed at Stoke by Nayland, Colchester on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 October. More details to follow soon.

4. We are starting a new marketing campaign to promote our facilities to more golf societies and to attract more outside functions (weddings, parties, meetings etc.)
5. We have started a trial of opening the 1<sup>st</sup> tee at 07.30 am at the weekends. This has certainly helped the bookings on the system. We know there is no difference from the noise point of view and we now await any reaction from the council.
6. Recently there have been a couple of incidents from wayward balls and no shouting 'FORE' and so we have printed some signs to go on the course to remind members, as well as some signs about slow play, again to remind members to be mindful of keeping up with the group ahead and not holding up the rest of the field. I would also like to remind members that they really should have golf insurance, at least for their own peace of mind ! The club has a scheme, if you wish, but you are obviously welcome to buy your own.
7. The new upholstered chairs are now in the bar lounge and we need to send a VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THE 100 CLUB'. John Finegan and Mick Avery have generously organised this for us. If you want more details about the 100 club, please ask them.
8. There are a few clubhouse projects we are working on right now. We will keep you informed as things progress.
9. We will inform you all soon about the future dates of our AGM (for acceptance of the annual accounts) and of an EGM (for the election of officers/directors).
10. Social events – Bharat Patel is extremely busy organising our new calendar of events. We have already had one really good quiz night, regular Poker nights and Comedy nights are now planned, along with the many music and/or food party nights for the rest of this year. Keep an eye out for the emails and announcements on the forum.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention to all members about car parking. You MUST NOT park on the yellow boxes marked off in front of the main entrance. They are marked so that emergency vehicles can get in without any problem. This also applies to the area to the side of the pro shop, leading to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee. Access must be kept free for emergency vehicles. If the car park is full and if necessary, please unload your bag or gear in an appropriate place and then park your car in one of the side roads opposite the club. We recognise that on some occasions it is difficult to find a parking space. We are in the throes of negotiating a deal with Trinity school. Right now, please only park in designated bays.

Many thanks for your attention and if you have any issues to raise, please do not hesitate to contact YOUR board.

Best rgds

Keith Povah

Chairman.