

Chairman's Blog March 2021

My first blog to all members of Shirley Park Golf Club....

Your board have recently elected me to be their/your chairman. I am very honoured and will do my best to repay the confidence they have placed in me.

Most of us know someone who has suffered from this awful pandemic. Obviously our thoughts and best wishes are sent to them. Now looking to the future, it seems that we are finally coming out of lockdown, we're getting all our jabs and we can look forward to thrashing our way around the course again, hopefully soon.

I hope you've all been practising. I'm going to get into single figures this year ! (In my wildest dreams).

First of all, in an effort to communicate more with members I will endeavour to send out a monthly blog by email and on the forum, in order to keep you up to date with your board's activities.

As you may be aware, we employed a new part-time handyman, Dave Harris, in November and he has already done some great work around the clubhouse, as well as the clear lines for the car parking bays. During this latest lockdown, all the bar staff have obviously been furloughed and all 3 members of the office staff are on part-time furlough.

Also, in an effort to be more transparent, I have listed below the main parts of the minutes of our last board meeting and I will continue to do this. I hope you have the patience to read through it all. It's not quite War & Peace, but it is time for a coffee and a hobnob (or possibly even a beer !).

I ask that the members please trust that the board will handle all pending issues and keep you best informed, as we proceed. However, please feel free to send me your questions and if I don't answer them directly, I will send them on to my co-directors to respond. Naturally issues will be prioritised and so you may be told that we will look into that at a future date, but rest assured your question will be added to the list. We also hope to start having think-tank sessions with members every 6 months or so, to discuss ideas to improve our club and to answer questions on any urgent & important issues. I'm sure there's plenty for you to share with us and we want to hear it.

In February, the board made up a list of over 40 issues that need discussing/resolving. Knowing that it is impossible to deal with all of them at once, we have had to prioritise them and now we start working our way through the list. The list is a working document which will change week by week, but we are committed to discuss all the points and to take decisive action on each item.

Some of the key issues and facts taken from the February minutes are listed below :

1. The directors were appointed the following roles -

Barry Pearce - Membership and Rules

Larry Coyne - House

Steve Denman - Golf and Greens

Bharat Patel - Social

Keith Povah - Marketing

2. The third hole will now be the charity bunker hole. Standing on the tee, the bunker on the right is for the Lady Captain's charity and the bunker on the left is for the Club Captain's charity. We are putting a sign on the 3rd tee to remind you of this. Each time you go in the bunker, (not that I ever do) you are asked to put £ 1 in the corresponding collection box on the bar please. If you feel inclined to give more, thank you. Details of the charities will be on the collection boxes/bottles.

3. At the next EGM we will discuss and vote on a new resolution, whether or not to allow the Vice-Captain and the President to have a vote on the board.

4. Shirley Park GC needs to gain a 'Safe Golf' accreditation. Simon Willmetts has been appointed our Junior Organiser and he is also going on a course to learn what we need to do, in order to comply with this accreditation.

5. We are investigating the cost of installing a tracking system and GPS on our buggies, mainly for security purposes and possibly also to stop buggies being driven in any unwanted areas.

6. Members - currently 451, consisting of 335 7-day members and 116 5-day.

7. Steve Denman, Larry Coyne, Neal Davies, Richard Evans and Steve Murphy are exploring the options and costs involved in putting in a drainage and/or irrigation system throughout the course. This is a VERY BIG project and probably very expensive, but we recognise that is essential for our future survival. This will be discussed further throughout the year and hopefully we will have a plan to propose to the membership for 2022.

8. Steve Denman and myself have had discussions with Richard Evans regarding a few issues, including the hours of the green staff and a roadmap of planned maintenance for the course over the next 12-18 months. Watch this space.

9. A few projects have already been completed during this past lockdown including the new fence at the front of the club, a new bicycle rack by the rear entrance to the gents' changing rooms, the new smokers' heated parasol and we are hoping now to continue with the re-painting of the exterior of the clubhouse.

10. We have also budgeted for and committed to a few more projects

- improving the lighting in the players' bar
- smartening up the clubhouse disabled entrance, which is also used by the ladies
- 13th tee (some of the tree work has already been done)

11. The board also wants to re-confirm our procedure for seeking tenders for any projects, involving expenditure over £ 1000. We want to see a min. of 3 quotations, of which only 1 will be allowed from a club member. The Club director responsible for that work will look at all quotations and explain to the board which quotation he would like to accept and why and then the board will vote on the proposal.

If you've made it this far, well done. I think you deserve a drink. Cheers !
Please look out for my next blog in March. Thank you.

best
Keith Povah
Chairman