

Lightcliffe Golf Club

Presidents Update – May 11th 2020

IMPORTANT

Be alert - play safe - stay safe

Following the Prime Ministers advice on the evening of Sunday May 10th we are pleased to announce that, in a very limited way, golf can recommence at Lightcliffe GC on Thursday May 14th 2020 at 10am. This timing is to allow our green keeping staff to complete the planned maintenance scheduled for this week and bring the course to a position where we can all play safely.

As with other clubs in England, *playing golf at Lightcliffe must be done strictly in accordance with the latest government recommendations.* We have to insist that all members adhere to this for their own safety as well as the safety of all other members and staff.

For the sake of clarity golf can be played by:

LGC PLAYING MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD IN GROUPS OF NO MORE THAN THREE.

LGC PLAYING MEMBERS IN 2-BALLS PROVIDING THAT SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES ARE OBSERVED.

SOLO PLAYERS CAN BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE NON PLAYING PARTNER (SAME HOUSEHOLD) TO ENCOURAGE OUTDOOR EXERCISE.

For those members who wish to retrieve items of equipment from their lockers, the clubhouse will be open on Tuesday May 12th from 10.30am until noon. If you cannot attend at that time please contact David McKidd who will be attending the club more regularly from May 14th.

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Presidents Update – May 11th 2020

We would ask that, at weekends, members who are not working give booking priority to members who are working.

Until advised otherwise golf at Lightcliffe GC is for playing members only and must be played in accordance with the following rules:

1. Social distancing rules will apply throughout the area of the golf course and clubhouse. This means that all golfers must keep a minimum of 2 metres distance from other golfers and club staff at all times.
2. The clubhouse will remain closed. The locker rooms will not therefore be accessible and players must change in the car park and bring their equipment with them.
3. The Ladies locker room toilet facilities only will be open for 'emergency' use during the core hours of 9am to 4pm. These facilities will be for the use of male and female members on a 'one person in the clubhouse at a time' basis. **In addition to thorough hand washing, hand sanitizers will be available for use on entry and exit of the toilet facilities.**
4. Use of the car park will be restricted by using alternate parking spaces to assist social distancing.
5. Initially golf will be limited to a maximum of 9-holes only per person per day. Play will be allowed only at pre-booked tee off times and must always start at the 1st tee.
6. Booking will only be available through the BRS system that is already in place. If you are not registered with BRS please contact David McKidd.

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Presidents Update – May 11th 2020

7. For golfers starting their round a one way system will be installed from the car park to the first tee and from the 9th green to the car park to assist the social distancing.
8. Tee off times will be spaced at 10min intervals. We would ask members to arrive in the car park in a timely manner and to proceed to the first tee when the group in front have all passed the large Oak tree half way down the first hole. If you miss your tee time for whatever reason you will not be allowed to push in and you must then re-book a new tee off time.
9. Hand sanitizers will be available by the clubhouse door and members are encouraged to use them. However, as we all know they have been in short supply and so, where possible, members are encouraged to bring and use their own hand sanitizers.
10. Initially golf will be a 'non-contact' sport except with your own golfing equipment. On the course:-
 - a. Bunker rakes have been removed.
 - b. Flagsticks must not be touched.
 - c. Ball washers must not be used.
 - d. Benches are not to be used.
 - e. Waste bins have been removed. (Please take all your rubbish home – including broken tees!).
 - f. Only touch your own golf ball, which should be clearly marked for identification.

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11. Bunkers. All bunkers are in play.

Golfers must make their very best efforts to smooth the sand using their club and/or their feet or use a personal rake.

The ball should be played as it lies but a new Local Rule has been put in place as follows;

When a player's ball lies in bunker the player may prefer the lie within 6 inches and no nearer the hole. The sand must not be smoothed before the ball is preferred

12. During play

- a. Only one ball per player to be in play at any one time
- b. Players will not be able to 'go through' the group in front.
- c. No practice swings should be made on the tee.
- d. Greens staff and their helpers must have priority at all times.

13. The practice area is closed to members. Private lessons on the practice area with David McKidd will be available as and when the PGA rules allow. Please contact David directly if you need a lesson.

14. The practice putting green will be available for use by each playing group, strictly in turn, with appropriate social distancing and only immediately before their tee time.

15. On completion of their round of golf, members are asked to pack up their equipment and leave the facilities as quickly as possible. We understand that there will be the temptation to stand and chat but if everyone were to do this then social distancing would be impossible.

The Board would like to thank all members for their ongoing patience.

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At the time of writing government advice is being constantly updated. Please bear with us as we try to keep the club and members up to date with all current requirements and recommendations. The latest advice will always be displayed in the window of the lobby outside David's shop.

Finally, it is reasonable to say that as golfers we are extremely fortunate in that we are allowed to get back to playing the game we love earlier than most.

Covid19 has been, and still is, a massive threat to our way of life. It has affected all of us in more ways than we could possibly have imagined just a few weeks ago.

Therefore the Board would respectfully urge all members and their families to adhere strictly to the current government advice to prevent another lockdown of our lives and the golf club.

Many thanks and, in so far as it is possible, Happy Golfing.

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John Wardingley

President – Lightcliffe Golf Club

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