



Chairman's Blog – July 2020

Dear Members

I am very pleased with the way the Club has responded to the constant challenges thrown at us during these unprecedented times. A good deal of patience and understanding both ways will be crucial for the coming months. A Second Wave would undoubtedly create havoc in the country as a whole, or localised like Leicester and Blackburn recently. We must do our part to keep members, visitors and staff safe and free from the virus. This will mean that old traditions may not be able to be reinstated yet, but we take each step one at a time in the return to normality.

Tee times.

The use of a second starting tee has received many requests and has been debated and calculated at length. I am pleased to say that for a trial period, we are opening the 11th tee on Saturday and Sunday mornings for play from 8am to 9:40am. This will be available to book through the Pro Shop either on the phone or by visiting the Pro Shop. The sheet will be available 7 days in advance from 8am, similar to the on-line versions for the first tee. Only one tee slot can be booked by one person, and there can be no "reservations" for other groups. This system is based on the concept of 2 hours to play the 8 holes from the 11th, as it will automatically have a corresponding slot reserved on the first tee two hours later. It is purely in the hands of members to make sure they reach the first tee in good time and then wait for their corresponding tee time (e.g. teeing off at 8:20 will mean the 10:20 slot at the first tee will be your time). If you are late for that for any reason, then you may not be able to complete your round, or you may have to wait until a tee time becomes available later.

This system is a trial and will be assessed again after a few weeks to judge its success or otherwise. It is up to members to respect the system and other members.

May I remind members that only one tee time should try to be reserved online. I have had reports of members trying to "hold" several tee reservations for up to 10 mins, and finally release them. This is totally against the spirit of the Club and would hope that some courtesy for others will prevail without having to resort to other methods to stop this practice.

Competitions.

Another Mid-week Stableford has been added for Gents on 11th and 12th August. Again, the Competitions will be reviewed in September to hopefully gradually return to normal.

Bar and Catering

The bar staff have been working very hard to bring members and visitors a safe and efficient Table Service, and the initial feedback has been great. We are now able to move to more extended hours, and again this will be under review regularly.

Here are the new hours for the next few weeks:

Monday - Midday to 8pm

Tuesday – Midday to 10pm

Wednesday – Midday to 9pm

Thursday – Midday to 10pm

Friday – Midday to 10pm

Saturday - Midday to 10pm

Sunday - Midday to 10pm

The Catering hours are 11am to 3pm on Monday, and 11am to 4pm during the week. Midday to 6pm at weekends, but these will vary depending on demand and any booked function or Society. Please do come along to support Alex this coming weekend when he is serving a delicious Curry Sunday Lunch.

Pro Shop

As you will all be aware, Retail Outlets are now covered by Government Legislation concerning the wearing of Face Coverings when entering the shop. This does cover Pro Shops, so please make sure you have a face covering with you and wear if you enter the Pro Shop. This takes effect from tomorrow. Mick does have a small supply of disposable masks, in case you haven't managed to obtain one yet. The Staff do not have to wear them as they are serving all day behind the screens.

Captains Away Day

Paul is very much looking forward to hosting his long awaited Away Day, and I know that many Members have shown their fantastic support for the Captain, by confirming that they are still going on the 23rd October to Stoke by Nayland. If anyone that has signed up previously, and not yet confirmed back to the Office yet, could you do so and also pay any balance if you have only paid a deposit so far. Once we know confirmed numbers, then any refunds of previously paid deposits can be attended to. Any new members who are interested in joining us for this great event over two days, then just contact the office for details.

Stay safe.

Kind regards

Nick Phipps

Chairman