



BEAUCHIEF GOLF CLUB

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

3 & 4 BALL BOOKINGS

You may well now be aware that the return to play in larger groups has been vetoed by the Sheffield Director of Public Health who has advised that the SIV Sheffield courses (Beauchief, Birley and Tinsley) should remain playing in groups of 2 balls only. This is especially disappointing as it does not yet appear to have affected the private courses, as yet!! It has only just been announced so time alone will tell as to how long this continues. I understand that the argument is about an increase locally in the R rate but does open air playing of golf with social distancing and other safety guidelines fit this restriction??

You will probably also now know that Tapton and Sinfin are not included in this continued restriction as they do not come under the Sheffield jurisdiction and are following the Government and England Golf advice. They are taking bookings for 3 and 4 ball groups.

Bookings for 2 ball groups are still available on line up to the 16th June, albeit they are very limited. Bookings for 2 ball groups from the 17th June will go live 6 days in advance. This will limit the advance booking of 2 balls to a maximum of 6 days for when 3 and 4 ball groups are eventually allowed. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN VERY SOON and I can assure you that all the SIV golf personnel are working very hard to achieve this at the earliest possible date!!!

COMPETITION PLAY

Following a meeting this week to consider all the implications of starting to play competitions again, it is with regret that this will not be possible at least until July but we are hopeful that we will have a process in place soon to allow it.

There are many guidelines that we have to follow, for the safety of both players and those tasked with the administration of the competitions. One basic one concerns the normal handling of scorecards. These are not being given out by the Pro shop although you can print your own by downloading a pdf file from our website. However, these should NOT be touched by anyone except you and that poses problems with the rules of markers and score entry etc. Also not being able to safely use the PSI in the Pro shop.

Our software suppliers Club Systems, who also operate the HowDidiDo software, are currently testing a Mobile Score Input routine for their app which will integrate with our Club V1 software. This is likely to be fully launched during June and we hope will facilitate a means of playing competitions again.

Covid-19 is still around us and we must all be very aware of

protecting ourselves and those close to us. The apparent simple process of playing competitions is far from it, so please be patient whilst we seek an appropriate solution. Rest assured we want to get back to some normality as quickly as possible. It is also realised that some members may not have the technology to deal with a mobile or IT based solution, but we are now living in a world where that is the norm and perhaps we have to expect people to move with those times!!

SUPPLEMENTARY SCORES

One piece of good news is that we are prepared to allow members to submit Supplementary Scores with immediate effect but you must follow exactly the routine that follows. No other method will be accepted:

- * Advise the Pro Shop of your intention to submit a score BEFORE you play (They will make a written record of this)
- * You MUST use your own scorecard (download from website) to record YOUR OWN scores.
- * Indicate on your scorecard which tees are to be used. (For men, either white or yellow are acceptable).
- * Scores should be verbally verified by your playing partner (marker). They must NOT touch your card or sign it.
- * Sign your own card and print the name of your playing partner (marker). We may check up!!
- * Take a photo or scan your card and send it to Dave Smedley to process onto your handicap record. ONLY use WhatsApp to 07725 886956 or email to sm04eds@gmail.com (Ladies will be advised of their contact to use)

All the normal rules of golf, and those permitted by current Covid-19 restrictions, must be followed.

TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES

If you are going to submit a Supplementary Score and for when competitions restart, the following MUST be observed:

FLAGSTICKS/HOLES

As the depth of the holes has been modified to allow players to remove the ball without touching the flagstick, scores will be acceptable for either Competition or Supplementary Score purposes. Balls must be holed and are considered holed if any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green, even if not lodged against the flagstick.

BUNKERS

As rakes in bunkers are not currently permitted, their general condition is very poor at this time and consequently they do interfere with the proper playing of the game. The Committee has therefore declared that all bunkers are GROUND UNDER REPAIR and scores will be acceptable for Competition or Supplementary Score purposes.

On the line from where the ball landed in the bunker and the flagstick, any distance backwards away from the bunker, select your Reference Point and mark it with a tee peg. A free drop can then be taken within one club length of the Reference Point but no nearer the hole.

FAIRWAY MARKER POSTS

These are not to be removed in any circumstances. If one interferes with your swing or stance or line of intended play, free relief may be taken. Select your Reference Point at the nearest point of full relief and mark it with a tee peg. A free drop can then be taken within one club length of the Reference Point but no nearer the hole.

THE COURSE

Most members who have now played since the course re-opened will have seen a tremendous improvement from the wet and muddy conditions we were still "enjoying" when the course was closed. With fairly limited and allowable resources during the closure weeks, the course has recovered remarkably well and that, in no small part, is down to our current two greenkeepers, Pete and Matt. They have done a fantastic job both during closure and since, often beyond the call of duty. Please give them a nod and say thank you when you see them. Our third man Neil is due to start again next month after furlough, if not before.

The "sandfilling" exercise on the greens, whilst being done at an inappropriate time (that was no fault of SIV - it just coincided with the government announcement giving 2 days notice to reopen!!), has proved a much better process than hollow coring. It is more expensive but the results are there to see already with the greens getting better and running truer every day. We hope that when the winter months come that we will see a benefit with hopefully fewer temporary greens in play.

2021 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In view of the very disrupted year so far and the cancellation of the majority of events that are normally associated with our Captains, it was recently agreed by the committee that our Men's and Lady Captains will both continue in their roles next year. By default, it is also hoped that all other committee roles will similarly follow suit.

Needless to say this will need to be ratified at our AGM in December (assuming we are able to hold a traditional one by then - or perhaps by Zoom?) but we believe that most members will be in full agreement with this stance. It does allow us to plan moving forwards and gives some hope, especially for our Captains, to have a "normal" year.

CLUB WELFARE OFFICER

To comply with our Safeguarding responsibility, we need to appoint a new Club Welfare Officer (CWO). As part of our affiliation to England Golf, we must have a trained CWO in place for 2021. Yes, there is some training to be done, unless you already have that qualification, but our current number of junior and vulnerable members is relatively small. The role should therefore not be too onerous!

Are you...

- Someone who always puts children's welfare first?
- Someone who wants children and young people to be safe and have fun?
- Passionate about our Golf Club and feel that we could benefit from your skills and experience?

If so, please consider applying to volunteer as our CWO and help everyone to have a great experience here. A role description template can be provided to anyone interested by contacting Martin Mould. Ideally we want to appoint someone who is not on the management committee, to allow an independent view, but to report back to them with any issues or recommendations as necessary.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!!

NEW MEMBER SPECIAL OFFER

This is just a note to advise all current members that we are looking for new members to join the club. Most years we lose around 10% of our membership total but we usually gain about the same number in new members. This year has obviously been very different with the coronavirus pandemic and consequently new member numbers have been low so far.

To address this, now that golf is taking cautious steps back to playing, we are offering any new members from now and for the next few months the added benefit of ***inclusive membership for the year 2021***. An annual subscription plus an entry fee are payable. If you know of any friends or relatives who play golf but aren't members of a club, please suggest us as an option. We will be providing competitive golf options again soon for all skill and age levels.

Full details are on our website under The Club / Membership and an application form can be downloaded from there.

In view of all the future uncertainties and of the financial consequences, we will be reviewing 2021 renewal subscriptions for current members with the ***possibility of a reduction***. This is still very early days for us to properly assess, but whilst our income has and will be affected for the rest of this year, our expenditure is also reduced in some areas. Let us just say that the management committee hope to be able to do this.

SAD NEWS

We regrettably have to announce the passing of Jill Tomlinson early last week when she finally gave up her lengthy fight against cancer. She was aged 74 and joined the club just over 5 years ago having previously been a member at Sicklesholme. Jill had been very ill for several months but always put on a brave face. She died peacefully at home with her family, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

I am aware that Kath Mowforth has already circulated a more extended message to the ladies.

CHRIS SHAW FUNERAL

Chris's funeral service took place on Monday 4th May at Chesterfield Crematorium. As advised in the last newsletter, there was a live webcast of the service at which only a small number of his family were allowed to attend. Obviously that did not include many more distant family members.

I'm quite sure under different circumstances the room would have been packed, not only by the golfing fraternity but also by his many friends at The Badger. One of Chris's last wishes was that all such friends gather at the pub to have a drink and say a farewell - no doubt this will happen but obviously we have no idea when.

The moving service was a tribute to the man we knew and included music, firstly with The Beatles' Let It Be, followed by a folky version of Over The Rainbow and lastly the highly appropriate Frank Sinatra's My Way. RIP Chris.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to his favourite charity Ashgate Hospice, the one that supported him latterly, may do so through a JustGiving page set up by his daughters. Search Google for JustGiving, select their website and enter Emma Phipps in their search box. You will see the page immediately. (A direct link does not work).

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