



Captain's Update May 15th 2020

Dear Member,

You will have seen in the press and on Welsh News that we are being allowed back to golf, albeit in a somewhat restricted way initially. The Golf Committee, together with other committee members and key members of our staff have worked on a strategy for returning to golf in a safe way, you will have received the guidelines, that we are adopting, attached to this email. These guidelines the R & A guidelines and more particularly for us, those issued by the Welsh Golf Union. If you are aware of members who are not on our email listings, please try to pass the information to them.

Copies of the guidelines will be at the Pro shop and at the clubhouse bottom corridor and entrance.

In line with the Wales Golf Union, we are currently permitted to play individually, or players may go out with other club members of their household. We must stay within these rules until the Wales Golf Union advise otherwise and I know that they are under pressure to follow the guidelines currently being adopted in England, nevertheless they are tied by the Welsh Government guidance also.

We have introduced a booking system via Howdidido and from Saturday morning at 8 o'clock members will be able to book up to 3 days in advance, the booking system will roll over daily at 8 am so that we keep 3 days of bookings available to members as we move forward. I would ask that members be considerate of other members when booking and try to leave spaces for those that are perhaps working and can only play at short notice, this would also apply to those that may only have the weekends available to them. I would also ask that members restrict their booking to twice weekly, initially, and then check daily to see if there are free slots available.

I appreciate that there is some confusion over travel to and from the golf club and what may be considered as a reasonable distance to travel for exercise. It is also interesting in our club as the grounds are partly in Newport area and partly in Cardiff area. I am not in a position to define what is reasonable and I'm sure you are all aware that this has been intentionally left somewhat vague, unfortunately I can only say that it must be an individual decision by each member as to what may be considered as reasonable.

We are fortunate in that we can get back to golf in some format and hopefully these guidelines will be relaxed so that the golf can be more sociable in the near future with players from different household being able to play in a safely distanced way (as my golf normally is).

We must however keep to the guidelines at all times as we move forward, in order to stay open as a club, so if there are any infringements of the guidelines, that threaten the safety of the club and other members, the person committing the infringement will receive an immediate ban from the club, pending a disciplinary hearing.

I shall ensure that changes to the guidelines from Wales Golf are implemented as soon as practicable and that members are informed of such changes immediately, via email.

Sadly, we have heard in the last week of the passing of John Davies,(EJ Davies) John was the Captain of St Mellons Golf Club in 2005, a short while later he moved to Thailand and more recently moved back home with family in the South of England.

To finish on a pleasant note, the vote for the President of the club has finally been counted and I am pleased to say that Mr Peter Thomas had the greater number of members votes. I have spoken to him about taking up the position and agreed with him that it would be better for him to take up the post next March and enjoy a full 2 years in the role. Last year's president, Mr Ian Cole has kindly agreed to continue as president during the interim period.

Kind Regards

Steve Parry
Captain

RETURN TO GOLF ACTION POINTS FOR MEMBERS

Introduction

During these challenging times, this set of safety rules has been put together to ensure that the health and safety of members and staff are given the highest priority, in order to prevent the risks from the Covid-19 virus.

These new measures will be reviewed and updated as information from the Welsh Government is received.

Failure to comply to these rules may lead to the Welsh Government introducing measures that force golf clubs to close.

NB By Turning up to play golf you have acknowledged these new playing rules, failure to comply may result in player suspension / disciplinary.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 please **do not** visit St Mellons Golf Club at any time.

Planning for your round

- Please ensure hands have been washed following the government's recommendation of 20 seconds with soap and water or a 60% alcohol-based sanitiser has been used.
- Bookings will be managed online. **No booking no golf.** Please **do not** turn up to the course without a course booking. Tee times will be between 0700 – 20.00
- The course is open to members only.
- Add hand sanitiser to your playing kit, use this at regular intervals around the course to protect you.
- If you cannot make your allotted tee time, please cancel your booking at the earliest opportunity.
- Please do not turn up to the course without a booking or arrive late for your allotted tee time expecting to play, you will be politely refused.
- The course management team will be responsible for sanitising common points, entrance doors, welfare facilities, flag sticks, exit and access keypads, etc which will be carried out on a regular basis.

On arrival

- Arrive at the club at a **maximum of 15 minutes prior** to your allotted tee time.
- Vehicle parking is to be within designated bays only. Maintain a distance from other vehicles wherever practicable and use the overflow car park when required. No parking within the green staff's yard at any time.

- Shoes to be changed in the car park. Changing rooms are not available.
- No alcoholic drinks are to be consumed on the course or on course premises
- Access to locker room will be permitted - one person at a time - to collect your clubs. If possible, clubs should be kept at home or away from the course during this period.
- Access to the trolley store will be permitted one person at a time. Sanitary measures and a bin will be available at the door.
- During this time access to the Pro Shop is at the discretion of Barry Thomas.
- Practice facilities are closed, except for use by club professionals (as they have their own guidelines in addition to these).
- Individual buggies only are to be used. These cannot be shared and should only be used by those who require them. Buggies will be cleaned down after use by the club.
- Every player must register and collect their cards from the pro shop window before you proceed to the first tee.
- Only single players are permitted on the course unless you are playing with members of your own household.
- Queuing for the first tee will be to the right (as you look down the first), please keep a 2-metre distance.
- The 1st tee **only** is to be used as a starting point.
- Allow 10 minutes between teeing off and the person in front of you.

On the Course

- If you feel ill while on the course, please attempt to make your way from the course, if needed dial 999.
- Please always maintain a 2-metre distance when on the course, including on the greens and when looking for balls in the rough.
- Please avoid spending too long looking for balls, just drop and play on. We would like to keep play moving.
- Provision will be made to avoid contact with flag stick, putt with the flag stick in, do not putt out.
- There will be no rakes on the course, therefore please smooth out foot marks with your club/feet on exiting the bunkers.
- Bins will be on the course as they are open in design which avoids any contact with the bin.
- On-course toilets will be available, please use with respect, wash your hands before resuming play. Club staff will maintain the cleaning regime of this facility.
- Please be respectful to green staff and give them priority on the course.
- Avoid calling the person behind through.

After The 18th

- Leave the 18th via the shortest route.
- Change your shoes in the car park.
- Shoe cleaning facilities will not be available at this time. Please clean your shoes at home.
- Leave the club grounds on completion of your round. Please do not attempt to return to the Pro Shop or to try and enter the Club House.

These rules may seem excessive, but we are working to ensure the club remains operational, even though it is at a limited capacity. They are in accordance and comply with government guidelines.

Please always respect these rules and enjoy golf as part of your exercise regime.

Thank you for your respectful cooperation

ADDITIONAL POINTS

Should playing in pairs be introduced

- Avoid shaking hands with you playing partners.
- One person at a time on the tee boxes.
- Ten minutes between groups on the first tee.
- Do not share clubs with others, use your own.
- Do not retrieve playing partners Tee or balls.