

VICARS CROSS GOLF CLUB

Following the Prime Minister's announcement the course will re-open at 10 am on Wednesday 13.05.2020

Happy New golfing year to you all! Enjoy it now you can.

Guidelines for Course Opening During COVID19 Restrictions

Our original plans for the re-opening of the course were based on the assumption that England and the rest of the UK and Ireland would follow a similar time frame. Unlike the other nations in providing reasonable notice of the date for opening of all courses, the UK government has been less specific for English golf clubs by implying that courses may open from 13th May.

We will be re-opening the course in accordance with Government recommendation on 13th May.

However, for the first three days the first starting time will be at 10 am. This is to enable the green staff to have a greater start than normal before being caught up by golfers. This arrangement will continue on the Thursday and Friday of that week but normal times will apply on the Saturday and Sunday as there will be no staff working. The weekday times will be reviewed in due course and amended to earlier start times if appropriate.

As you are already aware the course has been maintained since closure by Mike Gilligan and Russ Weston both volunteering to be paid 80% of their wage for an indefinite period. In the current financial situation the Board were very pleased to accept this generous gesture of good will. However, in order to maintain the course to a similar standard at a time when every hole on the course may have golfers playing, this will require an extra greenkeeper who will be paid his full wage as will Russ Weston. Mike Gilligan is continuing to volunteer to work at 80% of his wage. The remaining two green staff will continue to be furloughed.

The following guidelines should be followed until further notice:

Our objective is to allow our Members to enjoy a game of golf in a safe environment that adheres to government directives, whilst providing the maximum facilities possible at this stage.

This practical guide, by the Board of Directors, in accordance with golfing authorities' guidelines, indicates the measures Vicars Cross Golf Club is taking to help safeguard our members, staff and visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our measures and procedures will be under constant review and updated as advice from government and other authorities evolves in line with the gradual lifting of restrictions.

Competitive play is currently suspended. The course will be open to social golf only until further notice.

Course Access

In the initial period following the club's re-opening, access to the course will be only to our staff and club members. In due course and in line with the easing of government restrictions, there will be a greater availability for societies and other visitors.

Booking & Arrival

- All golfers should be aware of our measures prior to their visit.
- Entry and exit to and from the car park must be by security card only.
- Booking a tee time in advance is compulsory via the Club BRS tee booking system. This information is required to be kept for 6 weeks in order that medical authorities can trace contacts should any of our members become infected by coronavirus.
- Play is restricted to 2-balls either from the same household or 2 with appropriate social distancing of 2 metres.
- Arrive at the course no more than 15 minutes prior to a reserved tee time.
- Observe social distancing and always resist the temptation to mingle.
- Players should arrive in golf attire and change their shoes at the car.

Clubhouse facilities and course toilets

- The clubhouse will be closed.
- The initial access to locker rooms for clubs may be possible by pre-arrangement, but clubs must be taken home.
- The course toilets will be open and sanitizers available inside. It might also be advisable to bring your own sanitizer as an additional precaution.

Starting tee – from 1st tee only

- Groups restricted to 2-balls either from the same household or two with social distancing of 2 metres.
- Start times at 10 minute intervals.
- Practice putting green, limited to 4 players with socially distancing.

On the Course

- Social distancing of a minimum of 2 metres must apply at all times.
- All course furniture including bunker rakes have been removed.
- Ball washers, waste bins and the drinking fountain have been removed or are covered up.
- Smooth bunker sand with your feet. Preferred lies in the bunkers will initially apply.
- Flagsticks must not be removed from holes. The cups have been inverted so that a holed-out ball will be sitting near the surface and easily retrievable without contact with the flag.
- On completion of hole the group in front must have left the tee before you move to the tee.
- Do not double-back to play another ball if the original is lost, unplayable or in a penalty area.
- Players must not handle other players' equipment or golf ball.
- Player should refrain from handshakes or high fives.
- The course toilets will be open and sanitizers available inside

Practice Facilities

- Practice putting green, limited to 4 players socially distanced
- The short game area will be closed initially, in order to ensure that social distancing occurs.
- The Driving Range will be closed initially, due to issues relating to ball collection, etc. However, this will be reviewed if these issues can be resolved.

Leaving the premises

- Following completion of your round you must return to your car and vacate the premises.
- The car park barriers will be locked at 8 pm.
- Players must call or email the Club if you have experienced any post-round health issues or COVID-19 related symptoms as soon as possible and follow government / NHS guidelines.

Please make a copy of this document, take note of its contents and for reference bring it with you when you play.

Please continue to stay safe and we hope that we can all now begin to enjoy playing the sport that we all love.

Best wishes,

Board of Directors

11 May 2020