



BEAUCHIEF GOLF CLUB

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

GENERAL UPDATE

Scorecards are still not available from the Pro shop so you must still print your own. This is being reviewed currently and we're hopeful that the ban will be lifted very shortly.

Similarly, representations have been made concerning use of the ladies toilet at the 11th and again we are hopeful that it will become available shortly.

You will probably be aware that the re-opening of the clubhouse in some form is also being considered and an announcement will no doubt follow soon.

White tees will be out in time for tomorrow's men's competition.

All Bunkers are declared as Ground Under Repair so a free drop MUST be taken. The details of this were noted incorrectly in the last newsletter. Normal GUR rules apply which are broadly nearest point of full relief, no nearer the hole (NOT on a line backwards as previously stated - sorry for this error). Our third greenkeeper will be back off furlough today and hopefully some more regular bunker maintenance may be possible soon. If so a review of the current temporary local rule may be considered.

There has been another issue regards stray golf balls from the 6th tee. As a consequence, until completion of the new teeing areas, the white tee will remain as far back as possible, red tee will remain at the front but a new temporary yellow teeing area will be cut on existing rough nearer to the stream. This is not ideal but is purely for residential safety reasons.

Following what could have been an even more serious injury to a walker on Beauchief Abbey Lane, the hedge on the left hand side of the 12th fairway will be allowed to grow taller. It is important that all members shout a LOUD warning "FORE" wherever and whenever any golf shot is heading either Out of Bounds or towards fellow golfers. Golf can be a dangerous game and we must all recognise our obligations to playing it safely.

Another regrettable incident happened recently at the 11th pond hole concerning a lady member of the public and two golfers. Allegations by the lady of serious verbal abuse and over-aggressive behaviour were later reported to the police. We do have regular conflict with the public around this area and sometimes the public reaction to polite requests is not what we would like!! HOWEVER, PLEASE let us all show some restraint when dealing with the public when they stray onto the golf course. We must recognise that the signage around the ponds area, in particular, is either non-existent or very poor and this is currently being dealt with (along with other areas around the course). This will not happen overnight but it will happen. The public view that the footpath around the pond is a public right of way is incorrect but please let's deal with it

sensitively whilst we try to overcome the problem.

Tee time availability has obviously been under severe pressure since courses were allowed to re-open. Ten minute intervals have reduced possible player numbers but there is no indication from the golf authorities that that will change any time soon. Bookings when 2 balls only were allowed was almost 100%. That has eased since 4 balls became available but have still been affected by many people being furloughed. We believe this pressure will continue to ease as work continues to return to a new "normal" and we are working with SIV to try to benefit Club members. An additional pressure was related to Pro shop opening hours (and consequently tee time hours) but these are being reviewed to hopefully extend booking times - currently 8.00 to 18.00 weekdays and 7.00 to 18.00 at weekends.

COMPETITION PLAY

Men's competitions start tomorrow, Thursday 2nd July, with the monthly medal for June. Ladies competitions start on Wednesday 8th July with a stableford.

Competition guidelines have already been published and circulated to you, and it is important that you follow these. There are a few things to just highlight:

- * New hole indexes are now in use (tee posts show these, as also the downloadable scorecard from the website)
- * Bunkers are Ground Under Repair so a compulsory free drop out (General Penalty if not taken)
- * Preferred lies have ended!! It appears some still considered them in use!!
- * Use HowDidiDo to Sign In BEFORE play and submit your scores after play (MUST be same day)
- * Record your OWN scores and do NOT exchange cards.
- * ALL competition winners will be requested to submit a copy of their card for verification.
- * Please retain all cards for at least a week after a competition.

Fixtures can be seen on the website in Club Diary and Forthcoming Competitions. A more complete version to replace those originally published earlier in the year will follow asap.

QUALIFYING SCORES and WHS

The new World Handicapping System (WHS) is still planned to come in on 2nd November (transition date) and will replace our existing CONGU system. More publicity and details on this will be coming out shortly, although there is already plenty of information available if you look for it.

One of the key principles is to do with the conversion from your existing handicap to a new handicap index. This will use the last 20 Qualifying Scores on your handicap record but only back as far as 2019. Many members do not have that number of scores on their records, and of course Covid-19 shutdown has not helped that situation. This will not prevent a handicap index being allocated at transition but it will not necessarily be a true and up to date reflection of your playing ability.

So, what to do between now and November? We would encourage you to:
ENTER AS MANY COMPETITIONS AS YOU CAN
SUBMIT SUPPLEMENTARY SCORES OUTSIDE COMPETITION

Both the above represent Qualifying Score opportunities and the more you can do, the more accurate your new handicap index will be. Only the best 8 of the 20 are used (or pro-rata if less than 20). Why not submit Supplementary Scores when playing in your normal fiddles etc?? TIME IS SHORT.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCORES

The following are the requirements for submitting a Supplementary Score. These supercede those noted in the June Newsletter and MUST be followed - No other method will be accepted:

- * Advise the Pro Shop of your intention to submit a score BEFORE you play (They alone can sign you in).
- * A Supplementary Score will NOT be accepted on any day that a competition is running, in which you are eligible to enter.
- * A Supplementary Score round should be played as if under normal competition conditions.
- * You MUST use your own scorecard (download from website) to record YOUR OWN scores.
- * Indicate on your scorecard which tees have been 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!!
- * If more than one player in your group is submitting a score, ONE card can be completed for ALL players.
- * After playing, take a photo or scan your card and send it to the following, who will process the score onto your handicap record. Please ONLY use WhatsApp or email (NOT text which may incur an SMS charge!): Men's cards to Dave Smedley on 07725 886956 or sm04eds@gmail.com ; Ladies cards to Kath Mowforth on 07762 251992 or kmowforth@hotmail.com

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

MEN'S TOP DOGS

The ever-popular Top Dogs Competition is back on. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have not been able to play half the intended matches. It has therefore been decided to run the comp through into next year with the final in October 2021. This will allow more entries to the comp and will result in a larger prize fund.

If you have entered the comp this year, you will be contacted in date order (first match date on the sheet will get first choice of new dates this year). If you were down to play your match after 15th of August 2020, you will be given first choice, in date order, for next year when the dates are published.

Updated Top Dogs information as follows:

- * Challengers play against the Captain and Vice Captain or others playing on their behalf.
- * Better Ball Stableford. 90% of handicap allowance for each player.
- * Only one entry per pair.
- * Pairs winning their challenge match, (to win, challengers must score one or more points over 18 holes than the Captain's team) play off against all other winning pairs in a Better Ball Stableford final in October 2021.
- * Entry fee of £2 per player, payable on the day.

Any questions please contact Tim Richardson 07787 148866

PRO SHOP

Wayne Yellott has asked me to include a message to members regards purchases of golf equipment, clothing or shoes through the Pro shop. Whilst he doesn't currently have too much stock on display, he is prepared to price match most on-line deals, if not better those prices. If he doesn't have stock, he will order items to suit sizes, colours, styles etc etc.

Give him a call personally with any enquiries and see what he can do for you.
Mobile 07970 070422 or email wmyellott@aol.com