



**Hand watering at night during an extensive dry spell**

## **Caring for Our Course**

After the course was forced to close we were hit by a severe dry period with only 6mm of rain recorded since March 25th. This has forced us to irrigate regularly with the greens receiving water every other night and either the tees or sections of fairway requiring the rest. I have resurrected the old travelling sprinklers and they have been applying approx 13mm of water to 100 yards of land. By May it seemed the dry weather was winning where the fairways were concerned, the greens and tees were coping. Wetting agent and seaweed have been applied twice to the putting surfaces during the period and the fairways have had one application before the meagre rain that we had. Routine mowing has been taking place with myself and Guy doing all the work, the rest of the greens staff being Furloughed. We have to hope for rain otherwise we might be looking at another Autumn renovation project on the fairways.

With the return to controlled social golf most of our greens staff are back and it won't be long before the course is again looking its best. Adam took some interesting photos of work done to secure the course. We have scattered them throughout the Newsletter as a tribute to his (and his family's) dedication.

## **Coronavirus Response**

We are coping well with all of the challenges that have been thrown up by the emergency. Adam has worked his socks off making sure everything is in order in the Clubhouse and on the course. Both he and Guy have done a great job in maintaining our key asset - the golf course. There has been a high level of administration required to ensure that members and staff are kept up to date via regular communication; that the bills get paid, that we keep on top of all the announcements and guidelines. Ensuring that we get all the support we are due from government has been a major task, and it is pleasing to note that we did get our £25k grant, we do have rates relief for the rest of the year, and our

furloughed staff are getting the 80% support promised – with Gibbons our accountants playing their part. It certainly feels as though we have appropriate resources, structure and level of communication to cope with the emergency. Arrangements were made for a safe return to social golf on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May (within the guidelines provided to members) and at an appropriate time we will be able to extend that to arrangements for playing competitions. From feedback we know that the members do appreciate all that is being done on their behalf, but there is a heavy drain on the manager’s time responding to queries.



Some assistance for hand watering



Filling in the dried out cracks on the newly turfed areas. With lockdown help

## Finances

Despite what has been a poor start to 2019/20 with the weather and cancellations of bookings and opens, we were still shaping up quite well, and by end of March we were only about 13% down on bar turnover compared with the success of last year. Then along came the lockdown. We are still incurring costs but most of the bills are paid. We may have to be making refunds on greenfees and opens, but we are now hunkering down and containing costs as much as possible until we get through the emergency. Clearly, we do not know how this will play out, but we have been modelling a few scenarios and incorporating the latest information on extension of the furlough scheme and exit roadmap. The main factors are staff costs which depend on government support packages and duration, and our only assured future income source – our member subscriptions which we hope will remain at or near this year’s levels. At this point in time we are looking at breaking even in 2019/20 and again in 2020/21, but of course many a slip between now and then. This will mean that we will have very little scope to cover emergencies and major purchases.

## Staffing

From 24<sup>th</sup> March the only employees working have been Adam and Guy. Most greens staff started back working full-time in mid-May to coincide with return to social golf. Everyone else is on the government Furlough scheme. Staff on the scheme are currently not allowed to work in any capacity for the club. Not knowing how long the emergency would last we committed initially to making the staff wages up to 100%, but we need to reconsider this at the end of the first phase. The Furlough scheme has been extended to run to end of July as currently, and then a more flexible arrangement from August to end of October. The flexible arrangement has to be fully detailed, but includes the possibility of allowing part-time work with the government and the employer sharing the cost – and possibly 60% support for the remaining furloughed elements, but we don’t know for how long the scheme will last and at what actual level of support. There is a possibility that hospitality businesses may be able to open around July/August, but within strict distancing guidelines, which will perhaps reduce potential turnover to less than 25% of normal. With the potential to mix part-time with

furloughing we may be able to get some staff back on a part-time basis to cover limited bar business and golf clubhouse activity, but it may be some time before we can see any significant catering activity.

## **Wildlife Challenge**

Being shut in for weeks might make you feel that everything has stopped. However, most of you will have been delighted by the cheery birdsong of the dawn chorus – a sign that nature goes on regardless. It has taken nearly eight weeks for the Lesser Spotted Golfer to return to the links, but Adam tells me that he has spotted a wealth of wildlife on the course – Deer – Peregrines – Kestrels - Natterjacks – Pheasants – Adders – and more. We are so lucky to have so many species visiting our course.

In this year, which will be remembered in negative terms, it would be good to remember the nicer things in life - and our glorious wildlife certainly comes into that category. We so often see these things and promptly forget them. Let's see if we can make a record of Seascale's visiting and resident wildlife, flowers and plants as a challenge for the year. Most members have mobiles with good camera features that can take good pictures, and maybe some might rise to the challenge by taking a camera in their bag. Send your photos to [seascalegolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:seascalegolfclub@gmail.com) and we will collect them over the year. There will be prizes for the best shots, and hopefully we can put together a book to show the diversity of nature on our links in 2020.



Supporting our NHS during lockdown



A granular fertiliser giving the greens a much needed boost to aid recovery after the dry Spring

## **Council and AGM.**

We don't know when all of this will be over and it has been very disruptive, including for Council which although 'virtually' working, has really had its activities suspended and not had the opportunity make the contribution to the golfing year that they might have wished. We will find it difficult to conduct our AGM this year with the restrictions on gatherings, although we can see ways of making alternative arrangements.

Council has confirmed its agreement to a proposal to continue with the existing Council and office bearers for next year 2020/21. Since it will probably be impractical because of the emergency and distancing guidelines to hold an EGM to confirm this proposal, arrangements will be made to hold a members' poll by e:mail over the summer period.

## World Handicap System should start 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020



We are now only five months away from the introduction of the World Handicap System. England Golf was well into a series of regional workshops to promote the new system, but had to suspend these as the Coronavirus emergency took hold. In November 2019 we sent out Gordon Hennis's Seascale brief of the main features of the WHS. Gordon attended a couple of the above workshops and has made the presentation and notes available to us so that we can familiarise ourselves with the changes to come. The following link from England Golf provides a good explanation of the system: <https://www.englandgolf.org/whsgolfer/>

**World Handicap Presentation** - Click on the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DhZMauT9SmpX7\\_dSwDPI7XIpsu0PEHrAdkprpHsDUgY/present#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DhZMauT9SmpX7_dSwDPI7XIpsu0PEHrAdkprpHsDUgY/present#slide=id.p)

You may need the notes to help you understand the Presentation. Move your cursor to the bottom of the screen - a box will appear. Click on notes - this will open a new screen and show Gordon's notes. You can now work your way through the presentation by clicking on the next slide or previous slide to go back and using the notes button.

More information on the World Handicap System can be found on the following link:

<https://www.whs.com/>

So now that you are up to date on WHS – Why not take the Quiz challenge below.

If you get a score of 90 or more – we need you on the handicap committee.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/whsonlineseminar1.html>

## **Return to Golf**

The return to golf has to be done in a controlled way starting with social golf and with a limit on the number of players and the times between groups. We hope that we will get some relaxation in Phase 2 of the roadmap to allow groupings of 3 or 4 – at the moment we are allowing household parties of 3 but household parties of 4 have to split to two 2's. There is scope for members to play with guests at a reduced greenfee with payment made by bank transfer before play. It was certainly heartening to see every tee time taken on the first day and every other day almost as busy. Adam had a very stressful couple of days getting the arrangements in place to allow members' booking and worrying about the reaction and discipline of members. Thankfully everything went very well and we are grateful to our members for abiding by the controls in place so that we can demonstrate compliance with all aspects of the guidance.

## **Return to Competitions**

Phase 2 of the government roadmap will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> June and England Golf and all golfing organisations will meet then to decide on the release of guidance for the next stage. Hopefully this will allow us to recommence competition golf. We will transition from member booking of social golf which can be currently booked 7 days ahead, to a mix of member booking days and competition days with the first competition day likely to be Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June. A new fixtures list will be sent out asap. Due to the difficulty of mixing member booking with competition booking we expect all members who play on competition days to observe the guidance on numbers, tee timings and arrival and departure timings.

We are in communications with Club Systems about their App which is intended to allow remote signing in, payment, topping up, score entry etc. This may or may not be available by the time we recommence competitions. If it is not, we will revert to use of the PSI which will be located in the Pro Shop with the necessary procedures and sanitisation rules in place. Full details of the requirements will be made available before competitions recommence.

## **Visitors**

We are placing most emphasis on getting our members onto the golf course while they are unable to go to work, but as we move further from lockdown we will be making arrangements to welcome back visitors to our course. With the likelihood of stinging losses of income from all other sources we must look to gaining revenue from our main asset.



**The old travelling sprinklers bring some moisture to our driest fairways**

## Spruce Up Your Clubs

We are pleased to announce a partnership with Lake District Golf. Our members will benefit from an exclusive discount to their standard service which includes re-grip on all Irons, grooves re-worked and general maintenance. Lake District Golf offer:

- Re-grip
- Repairs
- Maintenance
- Refurbishment
- Customisations

They also stock a good selection of refurbished clubs at low prices. Trials are available along with a part-exchange option on selected clubs.

Please find them at [www.lakedistrictgolf.com](http://www.lakedistrictgolf.com) Facebook or call 07940 546 480

\*\*\*Pre-orders on club services are being taken and will commence once the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted\*\*\*

Please quote: seascale1893 to receive the discount and support our golf club.

## Coaching – Message from Bev for her Students

The golf course is now open (practice area closed) so you can go out and play a few holes, please book a tee time and play as a 1 or 2 ball. Coaching will go ahead when we are safe to meet up, it will probably be about 4 weeks away, but who knows what will happen now Boris has relaxed the situation and more people are travelling around. Fingers crossed all will be well. Stay safe everyone and hope to see you in the near future. **Bev**

England Golf advise that one-to-one coaching is permissible from 13<sup>th</sup> May. You can contact Bev to see if she is able to undertake coaching by calling 01697 331660 or mob 07549701243 or e:mail [bev.new@aol.co.uk](mailto:bev.new@aol.co.uk).



**Applying wetting agent before the rain arrives**

# England Golf – A Framework for Playing Golf

The framework forms a part of England Golf's 'Play Safe, Stay Safe' support and guidance for golfers, clubs and counties as we return to playing golf from Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May. Adam has communicated our requirements in line with this Framework.

## 1. Course Set-up On-Course Items

- ✓ All rakes and ball-retrievers to be removed
- ✓ Ball washers and drinking fountains to be covered up
- ✓ Benches and bins to be removed
- ✓ All other removable items to be removed - stakes defining areas of the course can be treated as immovable obstructions

### Hole and Flagstick

- ✓ Flagsticks can be retained but it is strongly recommended that a sign is put on the flagstick stating that it is not to be touched
- ✓ A method of inserting the hole liner to be used that means all of the ball does not fall below the surface of the putting green and can be easily retrieved by handling the ball only

### Practice Areas

- ✓ Practice areas, including practice nets, to be closed unless safe sanitising practices can be guaranteed

## 2. Before the Round

### Bookings

- ✓ Clubs/facilities to organise a system of booking and allocation of tee times that ensures the safety of staff and golfers
- ✓ The maximum number of golfers in a group per tee time to be confirmed by the club/facility and must be in accordance with any government requirements
- ✓ There is to be a minimum of 10-minute intervals between tee times.

### Arrival and Waiting to Play

- ✓ The clubhouse and locker room facilities will be closed. Limited essential access (for example to use the toilets) may be allowed by the club/facility
- ✓ Clubs/facilities to communicate in advance with golfers to advise on social distancing requirements that are being applied on arrival at the club/facility, for example not leaving cars until a certain time before their tee time
- ✓ Clubs/facilities to have procedures in place to ensure social distancing requirements in the area of the professional's shop or starter's building in advance of golfers teeing off
- ✓ No trolleys, carts or other items to be available for hire unless safe sanitising practices can be guaranteed
- ✓ Clubs/facilities to have procedures in place for the practice putting green, for example giving priority of use to the players in the next group due to tee off

## 3. During the Round

- ✓ Guidance and reminders should be provided by clubs/facilities to golfers to ensure that they keep at least two metres apart during the round.

### Teeing Areas

- ✓ Remind golfers to keep two metres apart at teeing areas due to the normal close proximity of golfers to one another when tee shots are being played

### General

- ✓ Remind golfers to stay more than two metres apart when walking to the ball, searching for a ball and playing shots
- ✓ Remind golfers not to touch stray balls

### Bunkers

- ✓ With no rakes allowed on the course, remind golfers to make their very best efforts to smooth the sand using their club and/or their feet

### Putting Green

- ✓ Remind golfers to keep two metres apart on the putting greens and not to touch the flagstick

## 4. After the Round

- ✓ Social distancing is as important after a round as it is during the round, so when the round is over all golfers must leave the course and the club/facility immediately so that there are no gatherings around the clubhouse area.

## **5. Rules of Golf-Related Matters**

- ✓ To enable some of the changes to the way the game is played, there are likely to be a number of changes to the Rules of Golf. Some of these are outlined below.

### **Forms of Play and Scoring**

- ✓ It is recommended that non-competition play is used during the initial period of golf being played, and that stroke play competitions involving players in different groups are avoided
- ✓ If competitive stroke play is played, a method of scoring needs to be used that does not require any handling or exchanging of scorecards
- ✓ Committees may choose to allow methods of scoring in stroke play that do not strictly comply with Rule 3.3b, or do not comply with the normal methods used under Rule 3.3b. For example:
  - ✓ Players may enter their own hole scores on the scorecard (it is not necessary for a marker to do it)
  - ✓ It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but some form of verbal certification should take place
  - ✓ It is not necessary to physically return a scorecard to the Committee provided the Committee can accept the scores in another way
  - ✓ As provided in the Rules of Golf, scorecards can be electronic, which could include emailing or texting scores to the Committee.

### **Bunkers**

- ✓ If golfers take due care when smoothing bunkers, there should be no need to provide a Local Rule for bunkers.
- ✓ But if the Committee feels that the enjoyment of the game is being significantly affected by there being no rakes, it may introduce preferred lies in bunkers and provide that a player may place a ball in the bunker within one club-length of the original spot and not nearer to the hole than that spot

### **Flagstick**

- ✓ Golfers are required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times and not to touch it. It is a matter for the Committee to decide whether it establishes this policy by way of a Code of Conduct or Local Rule, and whether it provides a penalty under the Code of Conduct or for a breach of the Local Rule
- ✓ As a temporary provision, flagsticks can be used for the purpose of player safety which do not meet the specifications in Part 8 of the Equipment Rules

### **Hole and Holed**

- ✓ The hole liner (sometimes referred to as the hole 'cup') is to be set in a way that means that all of the ball cannot be below the surface of the putting green, so the ball is considered holed if any part of it is below the surface of the putting green
- ✓ To minimise the need to lift the ball from the hole, it is recommended that the Committee provides that a ball is holed with the next stroke if it is within 12 inches of the hole (which is just over the length of a standard putter grip). This does not prevent a player in match play conceding a stroke that is outside this length
- ✗ The Committee may decide to have the hole liner sitting above the surface of the green and treat a ball as holed if it strikes the liner.



## Specific to Seascale

- Please respect the safety of the Greenkeepers. We will try and keep ahead of play so there is minimal interaction. To help achieve this, the tee bookings will start no earlier than 8.00am.
- Everyone who plays golf at Seascale must book a tee time. If you haven't already registered for this service please visit the website and click "Club" then "Members Online Booking". When you have registered you can book a tee through "Members Online Booking".
- Tee booking is limited to 1 or 2 balls only. If you book a 2 ball this may consist of yourself plus another member of your household or one person from outside of your household. You must keep at least 2 metres apart at all times if you play with someone from outside of your household.
- Families from the same household can play in a 3. Any families of 4 must split into 2's, unless they are the last tee time out.
- Play will be from the 1st tee only.
- The 3 bookings per person in a 7 day period limit will remain. However, you can now book additional tee times BUT only on the day of your intended round. This means you must still only book 3 rounds per week initially and then add any more rounds after seeing any spare spaces on the morning of your intended extra rounds. We feel this is the fairest system all round to allow all categories of our membership the opportunity to play golf.
- The booking limit window for your 3 bookings is Wednesday 8.00am - Tuesday 7.00pm.
- If you feel you need to play alone you can blank the 2nd slot in your tee time with your name.
- No one must tee off before 8.00am or after 7.00pm (timesheet reflects this ).
- You must not turn up for your tee time any earlier than 15 mins before you tee off. This is to prove we are in control of our car parks and 1st tee areas. You must also leave the area as soon as possible after you have finished your round.
- Only one group on the Putting Green at any one time.
- The Practice Ground remains closed. This is because we cannot ensure maximum hygiene control due to cross contamination of golf balls.
- With the rakes being removed it's important that after you have played your bunker shot you smooth the surface of the sand with your foot, or take your own small rake with you in your bag. Take extra care that the following players will have a fair lie.
- The on course guidelines have already been issued. These include no touching of the flag stick and no picking up stray golf balls. The bins and benches have been removed and the ball washers covered over.
- The Clubhouse and locker rooms will be closed. The toilet at the rear of the Clubhouse ( next to trolley store ) will be open and social distancing guidelines will be enforced
- Do not pick up stray golf balls.

## New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined us since the Autumn Newsletter:

Lee	Amor	Mark	Harris	Zac	Raynor
Neil	Atkinson	Steve	Haslem	Paul	Raynor
Mark	Atkinson	Gary	Hindhaugh	Wayne	Rayson
John	Ball	Lee	Holliday	Stan	Riley
Peter	Barnes	Philip	Jackson	Matthew	Risk
Adrian	Bartlett	Jeff	Kilgour	Sheila	Ritson
Jake	Benson	Kevin	Lamb	Kristian	Royle
David	Browne	Joe	McCluskey	Isaac	Smith
Ellis	Cumow	Reece	McCrorry	Karl	Smitham
Colin	Curwen	Spencer	McGennon	Peter	Walker
Ryan	Dickinson	Ellis	McGlennon	David	Watson
James	Edwards	Isaac	Morrow	Michael	Williams
David	Edwards	Craig	Niven	Luke	Williams
Emma	Faries	Grant	Nolan	Benjamin	Wilson
Jack	Fee	Barry	Offen	Ryan	Woodend
Brian	Graham	Alex	Partington	Bradley	Woodend
Lewis	Gribbin	Thomas	Pearson		
Simon	Hamilton	Ryan	Pearson		



**The Team sorting out the blockages**

## Potential Re-opening of Clubhouse

Hopefully sometime during July we will be able to provide a level of service in the Clubhouse. As you are all aware, this will be subject to strict implementation of social distancing and sanitisation rules. We will be working on protection and signage during June ready for the relaxation. We hope that all members and guests appreciate the need for such measures and abide by the rules.

**STAY ALERT – CONTROL THE VIRUS – SAVE LIVES**