

SENIOR CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER



BRAMPTON PARK
GOLF CLUB

May/June 2020

Half a year is better than none

Mark Twain said, "It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling." The problem is that the golf balls have not been rolling at all. That has happily now come to an end with the first tentative return to the fairways, maintained in lush perfection during our absence, luring us like Greek Sirens to overhit into unraked bunkers. A handy tip in these days of Social distancing, is that a paper cone fabricated from newspaper serves well as a rudimentary megaphone for verbal exchanges during your round.

COMPETITIVE GOLF As an easing of the lockdown rules by England Golf moves forward, some organised competitive golf at the club is being introduced. This will not allow the Seniors however, to return to Monday and Friday roll-ups at present, because all tee slots will need to be booked in advance for the foreseeable future. Players are not allowed to congregate like before. We hope that further relaxations are not too far off, but your committee is aware that in the interim, we need to introduce some opportunity for competitive golf from the yellow tees. From Monday 22nd June, we will commence offering a Stableford competition on Mondays to SMS members. It will run as per the Wednesday "W" with booking through BRS and your £1 entry collected by contactless card payment in the pro shop. Please remember to follow the published protocols for completing and signing score cards. There will not be an allocated block of tee times, so please add your name to any vacant slot available. Participation is optional - all members of your playing group can enter if eligible but do not have to. Derek Sincok will be sending out full details. As soon as we are permitted to safely reintroduce our traditional roll-up formats, we will advise you.

BOARDED COMPETITIONS On the other hand, the format of our boarded competitions with allocated tee times, does lend itself to the probable ongoing constraints. With this in mind, Derek Sincok has drafted out a revised diary of boarded competitions which can be completed in the remaining part of the season once we have club diary approval. In a first for the Seniors, he has successfully tested entry via How Did I Do in the same way as for Men's, Ladies' and Mixed competitions at present. Details will be published shortly.

ROLL-UP SLOTS We are very lucky as a group to enjoy two roll-up tee blocks every week in normal times. Many clubs are less generous. On both Mondays and Fridays we are allocated 7:00am to 9:30am only varying these in response to bank holidays and our occasional home match

8:30am tee offs. It is important that we support the commercial interests of the club however, and for that reason, we always respond positively to advance requests from the office to move or limit our slot to accommodate external tee bookings by Societies and businesses etc.

During the winter months, we need all of the time we are granted, as the later start by our early birds due to lack of light can stretch out the field close to the first booked tee times, particularly on those occasions when good weather swells our numbers.



*'My golf ball remained
socially distanced from the
flag and hole at all times'*

On the other hand, in the summer, it has been observed that there is little or no activity after 8:30am and while this is not a particular issue on a Monday, unused slots on a Friday are wasteful. On a trial basis therefore, we have suggested that during the summer the Friday block is reduced to a 7:00 to 9:00am time period. This trial will start as soon as Roll-ups are reinstated.

MATCHES Following a number of clubs deciding to cancel Senior Inter club matches for the remainder of 2020, we have decided to follow suit apart from our match versus Brampton Ladies. Derek has been busy working with his opposite numbers to prepare next seasons fixtures however and has already had confirmations from the majority, including March who we were unable to agree dates for this year due to a clash with the usual dates their end.

Phil Rogers - Senior Men's Captain 2020

Ron's Remarkable Rule Revelation of the month

Each month, Ron Cowper a qualified EGU club rules official, offers a clarification or explanation of a particular rule of golf.

This month: **Modified golf hole**

Q. if a players ball comes to rest in a hole the depth of which has been modified because of COVID-19 insert, is the ball considered holed?

A. Yes. In such cases, the ball is considered holed if any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green, even if not lodged against the flagstick.