

## Rowlands Castle Golf Club Returning to Golf



### 1. Introduction

Firstly, I hope you have been keeping well over the past couple of months and all is well with your families. Following the announcement from the Prime Minister on the 22nd February 2021, it is now confirmed that we can return to playing golf on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, which is fantastic news! Obviously, we would have liked this to be sooner, but it is nice to have a date. This document explains to you how the tee sheet is going to be set up on return. We have tried to set up a system that won't need to be changed much as we move forward. The benefit of starting golf on March 29<sup>th</sup> means it is after the clocks have changed and we have more daylight. It is also important that we remember COVID-19 is still very much among us so all decisions made are to ensure our members can keep as safe as possible.

Due to the lost time of golf, we feel it is important to ensure members are able to get onto the golf course. The positive of the rules given by the Government means we can return with up to 4 ball golf, which helps us a lot with getting members onto the golf course.

### 2. Tee Sheet Set Up

As stated above, the reasoning for the following tee sheet set up is to try and get as many members onto the golf course as possible as we know the demand will be high upon returning. The tee sheet will be set up for up to 4 balls playing 10 minutes apart.

We will be operating an 18-hole format with up to 4 balls, 5 days a week, with Tuesday and Thursdays being 9-hole days with a two-tee start. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis as we move forward. A big reason for the two days of 9 holes is to ensure members can get onto the golf course, plus with the extra day light it should mean there is no reason for us to add restrictions to playing golf.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Tee	10 <sup>th</sup> Tee
Monday	07:30 – Dusk	N/A
Tuesday (9 Holes)	07:30 – Dusk	08:30 – Dusk
Wednesday	07:30 – Dusk	N/A
Thursday (9 Holes)	07:30 – Dusk	08:30 – Dusk
Friday	07:30 – Dusk	N/A
Saturday	07:00 – Dusk	N/A
Sunday	07:00 – Dusk	N/A

If you book as a single on the system, it will allow another member to book alongside you. You must stick to your tee time for the system to work and to ensure social distancing occurs. Members guests, visitors and societies will not be allowed at this time but we will review this moving forward.

For those who want to shield, please contact the office and we will let you know how to block out the other slots. If you have spoken to me in the past about this, the process will be the same.

The booking system will be set up the same as it was with tee times coming live 7 days before at 19:30. Therefore the system for the 29<sup>th</sup> will come live at 19:30 on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### 3. **Competition Golf**

With world handicapping being applied for the first time we are going to take cautious approach to restarting competitions. In an effort to give members a chance at early competitive golf we are going to use the Easter Weekend to run the AGM cup - there will be no Easter Classic as advertised in the diary for Easter Monday. The AGM cup is a competition open to all and we will run it over the Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Once we have assessed how this goes, we will look to re-introduce the golfing calendar sooner rather than later.

### 4. **Clubhouse**

Due to the restrictions the bar will remain closed upon our return. Details on this will be sent out when we get closer to the time of being allowed to do so. The locker rooms will be open for use, we ask you to wear a mask at all times when inside the building. Opening hours for the locker rooms will be circulated nearer the time of return.

### 5. **The Golf Course**

Kevin will send out a course report in the coming weeks, but to keep you informed, we have now brought back the full team of green staff. The reason for this is to ensure the golf course is ready for your return. Course maintenance is starting this week to give plenty of time to recover before you are back playing. The boys will be working hard to make your return to golf as special as possible but it is important to remember you will be returning in March and our greens historically get 'season ready' come May.

### **My Thanks**

It has been a difficult start to the year and I can only thank you for the support you have shown to the golf club. Members like yourselves are the reason we will continue to be the great golf club that we are. Hopefully Mr Johnson is right in saying that the restrictions are soon coming to an end and normal life can resume in the summer.

I really am looking forward to your return! I will be sure to be out on the tee as much as I can for the initial week we return.

Best wishes – and 'stay safe!'

*Shahin Bani-Sadr* – General Manager