

May 2020 Newsletter



- Welcome to the Club's newsletter
- We welcome feedback via any of the Board members.

Chairperson Report (Bill Carson)

I hope you and your families are well and continue to cope in what are extremely trying times. The Board would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your patience and support and for coming forward with your subscription payments to enable us to function financially. We have heard accounts of how other clubs in the county have dealt with the issue of subscriptions during this enforced closure. It appears that we may be in the minority, at least for the time being, in giving all our members a 'subscriptions holiday', but the Board still feel we did the right thing for our members. You will see below a financial position summary, together with a list of major actions we have taken to minimise losses during this time.

The Board has continued to meet five days a week via Zoom to ensure we stay on top of all issues that arise so that we will be able to hit the ground running, as it were, when we get the go-ahead to reopen the course. Unfortunately, all scheduled events from matches, social and charity days have had to be put on hold or cancelled. When the time is appropriate, we plan to have a diary/calendar meeting to see what can be rescheduled and when. This includes the Captains' Days and hopefully the major trophy competitions. We shall, of course, keep you fully informed.

I am pleased to say that our reduced green staff continue to work tirelessly carrying out all necessary tasks and the course, from what I am told, is looking good. Because of this, it will only take a couple of days to get the entire course up to its highest standard and ready to play once we get permission to reopen.

There are stories in the press about the possibility that golf courses may be allowed to reopen sometime next month. There is little doubt that if this is the case a good number of conditions will be imposed on us for safety reasons. With this in mind, the Board has been pro-active in producing a comprehensive document that addresses a whole myriad of questions and procedures that will need to be considered when we do return to play golf. This includes the issues of social distancing as well as booking tee times. The full document will be available once we have received further guidance from England Golf and we get notice from the Government that we can reopen. In the meantime, a summary of our proposed reopening procedures is included in this newsletter.

Finally, it was good seeing so many of you join us for our first Zoom quiz organised by David Smith. We hope to put on another one before too long so look out for the advertising and any instructions required for logging on.

All of us on the Board look forward to welcoming you back to the Club as soon as we are able, but in the meantime, continue to stay safe and observe all Government guidelines.

Financial Position - Summary

The following table shows various potential cash flow scenarios, compared to our position pre-lockdown. This allows for the 'subscription holiday' we have implemented, an assessment of existing members who will not renew when we re-open and all the various mitigating actions the Board has instigated as listed below.

12 Month Forecasts after Covid 19	Best Case	Medium Case	Worst Case
Compared to pre-lockdown forecast – i.e. Total predicted loss caused by Covid	£54.9k loss	£83.7k loss	£106.2k loss

Best Case - assumes 3 months total lockdown

Medium Case - assume 4 months total lockdown

Worst Case – assumes 5 months total lockdown

Major actions we have taken to minimise losses

- Claimed the Government Small Business Grant - £25k (already received)
- Claimed rates relief for the rest of the year
- Minimised Professional and Steward's retainer fees
- Stopped cleaning contract
- Furloughed 1 greenkeeper initially, now 2 and restricted hours of others
- Deferred course rental payments with both the Town Council and Common Owners
- Deferred EGU and SGU affiliation fees

- Progressed loss of business insurance claim (unlikely to be successful)
- Minimised general course expenses
- Deferred all other non-essential invoice payments
- Stopped all unnecessary establishment and administration expenses
- Consideration of business loan via Government supported scheme

Other points to note

- Every month beyond currently modelled scenarios that we have lockdown will incur further losses of approx. £25k per month
- Cash reserves are approximately £80k
- Re-opening is likely to be phased with continuing social distancing restrictions which will likely reduce income opportunities and incur extra costs. Difficult to predict until detail known

It is worth noting that over many years of prudence, when our finances have allowed, our level of cash reserves has been built up to ensure we have some contingency for a 'rainy day'. This has clearly been a wise decision as we are currently experiencing a 'very rainy day,' and without it, the 'subscription holiday' would have been much more difficult to agree to.

Our analysis is clearly not an exact science as there are still many unknowns, but it does show that our actions are ensuring we will still be on a reasonably firm footing when we resume, as long as the lockdown doesn't extend beyond all current predictions of course!

However, it is currently looking likely that we should be open again within our best case scenario period. This would be excellent, although no means certain, so you can be reassured that the Board is constantly reviewing the situation and reacting accordingly as new details become available.

Course Conditions (Roger Moore)



The course is looking good, but as per normal more rain would be welcomed. We continue to complete all the essential jobs with a very reduced crew. We now have one full time and one part-time green keeper furloughed (reducing contact and therefore increasing safety) and are managing with the remaining two full time.

The greens, tees and aprons continue to be cut less frequently and also at a slightly higher level to reduce the stress. However, it will only take a couple of days to get the

course in a playable condition, once we have the green light to recommence play.

The Board (and we are sure all the members too) would like to thank the green keepers for all their flexibility and hard work during this difficult time.

With a View to Reopening

As Bill mentioned in his opening remarks for this newsletter, we have been doing a lot of preparation in anticipation of being given the go ahead to reopen. Clearly this still has a lot of unknowns and uncertainty of exactly what restrictions the Government will continue to recommend so we have developed various likely scenarios that we can tweak when things become clearer. Our aim is to ensure that everybody in the Club has a fair chance to play and most importantly be as safe as possible whilst doing so.

The R&A and England Golf are one step behind us and have issued in the last couple of days their own guidelines to clubs for starting up again. We are pleased that our own procedures are a good match with theirs, so not many adjustments needed, but we have added their *“Play Safe, Stay Safe”* branding to our details. It sums up what implementing the procedures is aiming to achieve.

Our intention is that as soon as we hear when we can reopen, and what restrictions remain, we will make the final adjustments to our procedures and communicate the details widely. This will include an email to all members, publishing on our website and providing links via all the normal social media routes. Interestingly we have also developed a plan for re-educating the general public that a golf course exists and is back in use, as many have got used to walking across all areas of the course during the lockdown.

The most likely scenario is that quite significant social distancing requirements will need to be in place for all areas of the Club. It is unlikely that the clubhouse and changing facilities, (other than toilets), will be allowed to open initially but the pro-shop and course, albeit with restrictions on the number of players in each group, will be.

So, on the course, we may be restricted to 2 balls only, and almost certainly many of the other procedures we put in place just before closure, such as flags to be left in, rakes removed, ball washers out of use, requirement to keep 2m apart whilst playing etc. will continue to be necessary.

A challenging area to address is arranging times to play, particularly if we are restricted to 2 balls only. We should also expect a high demand for tee times in the first couple of weeks as most of us will be keen to get back on the course. Therefore, we are likely to adopt some, if not all, of the following procedures regarding tee bookings:

- All tee times must be booked in advance – nobody should just turn up to play as we need to minimise congregation of people on site
- Tee times can be booked on-line via BRS or by telephoning the Pro shop
- Members who have not paid their subscriptions will not be able to make any bookings until they have been paid.
- Initially, bookings will only be able to be made up to 1 week in advance and a maximum of 2 morning bookings per player per week

- All 'block booking' arrangements will be suspended during this period
- Some weekend tee times will be 'reserved' for workers who are unable to play during the week
- Arrival at the course should be no earlier than 10 minutes before your tee time and leave as soon as your round has finished.

Hopefully, you will agree that these examples are quite pragmatic potential solutions to what will continue to be a challenging time for the Club. We will of course continue to review these, and all the other detailed procedures, as more specifics become available from the Government. We will then publish the final version in advance of reopening.

The Swing and Putting Clinic (Trevor Bond)

I want to thank all the members who have made a pledge of a donation to go towards the development of this clinic. A sincere thanks to all of you who have transferred this pledge into sponsorship and made the appropriate payment. Several members have asked recently how they can pay. A cheque can be made out to Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club Ltd. and sent to Bungay and Waveney Valley Golf Club Ltd, Outney Common, Bungay NR35 1DS or by Bank transfer using the following details:

Barclays Bank, Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club Ltd., sort code 20 92 08 and account number 73197581 and referencing your payment 'The Swing Clinic'.

Those of you who wish to become a member of the Clinic a £50 donation will give you a 10% discount every time you use it and a 20% discount for a £100 donation. This project will not only improve the facilities at our Club but also generate income, with no reliance on the Club's budget.

Pro's Clinic

A link to some chipping practice from Chris <https://youtu.be/zcwsb5LpKBM>

“Stay Safe, Play Safe” (hopefully soon!)