



Chairman's Blog – September 2020

Dear Members

My Blog has coincided with the news from the Government that further, more stringent restrictions have been passed as Law to take effect from Monday 14th September.

Various adjustments to service, and Social Distancing have now been necessary to keep members and visitors safe, and to fall within the Law.

All groups must now not exceed 6 people, so tables and chairs have been measured and notices placed around the Players Bar and Lounge. These table configurations must not be altered, as it is imperative for all our safety that we continue to offer a safe environment. The R number has just gone over 1 and that is a dangerous mark, so we all need to be responsible.

The staff have been instructed not to serve anyone who is not adhering to the Law changes.

With the decrease in daylight, and cooler temperatures on the way, it is important that we look after members' comfort as much as possible, so there are clear notices on the tables inside, and a One-Way System where possible. Please respect these. There is no Standing permitted inside, so once you have been served at one of the Service Points in the Lounge, then move back to your seat as soon as possible.

Members have been asking about the TV, especially as the Football Season is approaching. This is covered in the Government Document on Hospitality, so as we speak, we are still not permitted to show Broadcasts that could incite loud voices and shouting. As soon as we can, Sky TV will be brought back to show in the clubhouse.

I noticed last Sunday (13th September), that social distancing was not being adhered to, so (especially now with the new law), I would ask that you respect your fellow members, along with our staff, and stick to the rules.

Tee times

This remains under constant review, and the trial concluded that fewer slots were needed off the 11th Tee on Saturdays, so that has released more tee times off the 1st tee. This will be review periodically.

Captain's Away Day

I am sure you may now be aware that Paul has been forced to cancel his Away Day at Stoke-by Nayland for various Safety reasons, and the process of refunding Members is now underway. It is such a shame that Paul's Captain's Year has been blighted by the Virus, and the subsequent lack of Competitions and other Celebrations that make up the most important part of the Captain's Year. I would like to thank Paul for his Captaincy under extreme circumstances.

AGM

With the news just released, it will be increasingly difficult to host the normal AGM, and the Board will keep Members advised as and when we can. The Audited Accounts have been delayed by both the Accountants, and our own Furlough arrangements, so we hope to host an AGM in late December or early January within any restrictions. We are investigating a Zoom function, and of course we now have Proxy Voting, so we may be able to tackle any obstacles.

We have a number of vacancies this year, following Larry Coyne's departure as House Director, and Terry Burtenshaw, who stepped into the Social Director's position in January and has now resigned due to health reasons. In addition, I myself am stepping down after 12 years on the Board, during which I have enjoyed serving the Club to the best of my ability. Barry Pearce is also up for re-election, so we will have 5 Directors to be elected including Neal Davies who has agreed to stand as Financial Director again.

Dave Smith is being nominated to do another term as President, and Jim McAllister will stand as the nomination for Vice-Captain.

We are keen to attract Members who can contribute to the successful running of the club. Anyone interested, please speak to me, or any of the other Directors, and we will let you know what is entailed.

Pro Shop

Just a reminder that Face Coverings are compulsory for Members and Visitors who go into the Pro Shop. Please make sure you protect the staff who work there.

Junior Organiser and Welfare Officer

Paul Vasdev has stepped down as Junior Organiser, and we thank him for his efforts. We are now in need of a replacement, as well as a Welfare Officer. Both roles are a necessity as from January 2021, to be compliant under the England Golf SafeGolf initiative. If you are interested in helping develop the Junior Section, then let the Office know or myself.

Course

The greens are getting rave reviews from Members and visitors. The Greenstaff continue to work miracles to give us the best possible playing surfaces. That said, we have several areas that are very bare, primarily down to Buggies, both Club & individual Ride-Ons and also trollies, driving far too close to greens and surrounds. Several times, members have been spotted driving round the back of greens, and this just contributes to the issues that we face every year with these high-traffic areas. Please be considerate and park your buggy/trolley a good distance away from the green and don't drive right up the surrounds. The more we do this the better the course condition will be.

The dress code for white socks with shorts and other non-conforming dress items seems to be on the rise. We have a relaxed dress code, so please conform to this and simply make sure you are dressed for golf in appropriate clothing that doesn't involve Cargo shorts, coloured socks with shorts etc.

Stay safe.

Kind regards

Nick Phipps

Chairman