

**MEN’S COMMITTEE MEETING**

 **Hoebridge Golf Club**

**4.00pm Friday 24th April 2020**

Captain Tom Wesolowski (TW)

Vice-Captain Mark Pearce (MP)

Handicap Secretary Andy Richardson (AR)

Midweek Organiser Neville Goulton (NG)

ClubV1 and New Members Peter Becque (PB)

Website and Communications Bill Goodman (BG)

Past Captain/Secretary/External Competitions Graham Norris (GN)

Attending

Summer Friendlies Mike Edis (ME)

**Meeting held by Video conference to discuss how to restart golf as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.**

1. Minutes of meeting held on 12th February 2020 to be discussed at next meeting.

2. It remains uncertain when golf courses be reopened and under what conditions. The committee considered that golf may not restart until early June and that, at least initially, play maybe limited to two ball groupings.

The committee noted that CONGU has passed temporary provisions so that:

1. If clubs have made the decision to modify the depth of the hole to allow players to remove the ball without touching the flagstick, scores will be acceptable for either competition or supplementary score purposes.
2. If clubs introduce a Local Rule to allow preferred lies in bunkers, scores will be acceptable for competition or supplementary score purposes. note: The distance for preferred lies in the bunker is limited to 6 inches and the area cannot be smoothed before placing.

The committee agreed that, on the resumption of golf at Hoebridge, qualifying competitions will be played under these conditions and that a local rule will be introduced in regard to bunkers (AR).

All men’s competitive golf, including the roll up, will be by online sign up only for the foreseeable future.

Members will be notified of these changes and also advised to smooth bunkers as best as possible after playing their shot, shortly before golf resumes at Hoebridge (TW)

3. The committee noted the R&A advice regarding handling and exchanging scorecards and that on a temporary basis,

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.

It was also noted that CSI are developing a score input function which will be accessed through HowDidIDo, operating in a similar way to the PSI terminal. If this is ready when golf resumes players will input their own score using HowDidIDo before posting the card in score card box. Competitions will be closed the same day with the cards being checked several days later and any adjustments made to the competition if necessary.

If the CSI function is not available then the committee will consider receiving photos of score cards by email with the scores to be input by the competition scorer, the physical card is again to be posted in the score card box.

Processes for both methods to be fully detailed (TW)

4. The committee agreed to postpone the Men’s Club Championships in June and look to play these later in the year. As members will have limited opportunities to play in qualifying competitions the committee will decide if these conditions need to be relaxed at a later date. (TW)

 The Super Seniors championship will also be postponed until later in the year.

5. It was agreed that if possible both the weekend and midweek singles competition should be completed, with play by dates adjusted depending on the date golf is resume. Members will be allowed to play these matches whilst taking part in other competitions such as medals and stablefords including the roll up

6. A decision regarding the Knockout pairs was deferred until the date golf resumes and the restrictions it will be played under are confirmed. If play is limited to two balls only for a sustained period the committee agreed that it would be difficult to complete these competitions.

Decisions on other competitions, such as the Men’s foursomes, were also deferred.

7. Men’s summer friendly matches have mostly been cancelled or postponed. HGC will consult with other clubs as to whether the remaining fixtures should be cancelled for 2020 (ME & TW)

 Discussions with other clubs regarding the 3 Counties Winter League will also be initiated (TW)

 HGC awaits confirmation from Surrey Golf and the NAPGC in regards to external competitions, participation will also be determined by the members appetite to play in these competitions.

8. TW confirmed that England Golf expects clubs to have completed their Safegolf certification as planned for January 1st 2021. For Hoebridge this has been managed by Will Butterfield who has largely completed the process. HGC will need to be involved in the final discussions to ensure its junior policy is appropriate.

 9. AR advised the committee that England Golf and CONGU remain focused on launching the World Handicap System (WHS) on 2 November 2020. Information regarding this should be available to members later in the spring. It was agreed that HGC would consult with its IT provider, CSI, to determine how prepared its systems are for the change (BG)