



Chairman's Blog – May 2020

Hi everyone, a short update on some of the things going on behind the scenes.

I must start by expressing the Club's gratitude to those of you who have already paid your subs or made arrangements to earlier than normal.

I must also say a big Thank You to the flock of volunteers who have made such a fantastic effort to maintain the course and help improve it while some of our staff are on furlough.

Sometimes when the Board and staff are working behind the scenes it can be frustrating when there's not much visible for the members to appreciate and nothing is quite finished..

This is where we stand on some of the issues we've been working on recently.

Finance. Neil has maintained a firm hand on the Club's finances helped greatly of course by the above-mentioned influx of money from members. Members responses to the recent invoices have been largely positive and the Club is sympathetic to the situation many members find themselves in so unexpectedly.

Signage: Having followed the golf authorities advice on the wording of the signs, it became obvious quite quickly that they were not deterring trespassers of all varieties. The volunteer marshals including Board members have worked hard to politely inform people who do stray on to the course and most have equally politely moved away. It remains a problem and we have ordered new signage to be permanently fixed in strategic places which leaves no room for doubt that the course is private property. They will be here soon.

Online booking: After a few teething troubles, the feedback received from members is that the system is easy to use. 2 balls every 10 minutes doesn't sometimes satisfy the needs of all our golf-starved members and any relaxation by the Government of the current restrictions on numbers of players and time of gaps between groups will make a big difference to us all.

Buggies: As many of you know, 2 buggies were stolen from the store behind the Pro Shop.

It was a great relief to hear that they had been found by a dog walker. The buggies had been hidden in the trees in Lloyd Park. They did have some damage which it appears can be repaired by even more volunteers willing to donate their time and skill to get them back on the course.

Speed of play. Being spread out rather more than usual in 2 balls has resulted in a good pace of play most of the time and we would request that everyone is mindful of the groups in front and behind to keep the course moving smoothly.

Visitors, guests, and prospective new members: In our quest to generate some revenue to help our financial situation we have been able to allow some green fees, guests and prospective members to enjoy the course. We have already got more than 20 new members out of this and enquiries are still coming in. We try to allocate times to them when there are 2 or more tee times free to minimise the inconvenience to members

and your patience has not gone unnoticed when these times are filled after the booking, It is very pleasing that members have been willing to tolerate this is impossible to avoid occasionally.

We've had no complaints at all about members' attitude towards visitors which is a credit to you all, especially when 1 or 2 have taken a wrong turning on the course!

Competitions Surrey Golf have recommended that no Club Competitions should take place for the time being and are monitoring the situation regularly. When they recommend a relaxation of the current restrictions we will do our level best to follow their guidance while ensuring that we still do everything possible to protect all our members from harm while at the Club.

I think that covers it and would like to say that seeing the generosity of spirit (and money) of so many of you makes me prouder than ever to be the Chairman at our wonderful Club.

Kind regards

Nick Phipps

Chairman