

Dear Member,

What a horrendous year it has been! It's not only the lockdowns but even the weather has been atrocious. It has certainly been the worst year of my professional career and I've been running companies for over 50 years. In the 18 months since the take-over, we have been either in lockdown or working under some very limiting restrictions for over half of that time.

I am sure that everyone has been touched by the virus or knows someone who has caught it, or worse. The owner and management offer their sincere condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one during this difficult time.

The redeeming factor is that we now have a light at the end of this very dark tunnel with the course re-opening on 29th March along with the driving range. One-to-one lessons with Andy can also restart on that date. This will be followed by the gym and pro-shop re-opening and outside dining from 12th April, with inside dining permitted from 17th May.

During this bleak year investment in the establishment has continued, despite the massive loss in revenue. We were committed to doing this prior to the pandemic and Mike has honoured his pledges and continued to pump money into the place not only to improve the facilities but also to just maintain the course and infrastructure and retain the staff. Had we not had Mike backing us I am doubtful that the club and establishment would have survived the year.

You will remember that last year we reopened the gym with additional equipment added and personal instructors added to the staff. Additionally, in the clubhouse we totally refurbished the upstairs function room, veranda, lobby and stairs, bowling room, dining room (green room) and now the bar. We also purchased new furniture and umbrellas for the terrace, together with a professional grade barbecue.

Other projects that are not so obvious and that members may not be aware of are that we are currently having a new roof put onto the kitchen storeroom and the laundry room is being moved from the fairway lodges and into the old changing rooms within the main complex. Most of the appliances in the kitchen have now also been replaced. New telephone and computer systems were installed, and we have now had a dedicated fibre optic cable from the local exchange into the complex to speed up the Wi-Fi as this has always been a matter of contention amongst staff and visitors alike. All seven lodges have now been redecorated with new soft furnishings and had new Wi-Fi equipment fitted.

Members will also have noticed that we have replaced over half of the buggy fleet with new machines (10) equipped with satellite navigation systems. We have now ordered a further 5 buggies which are due for delivery in April when we shall further dispose of some of the remaining older machines.

The carpark lighting has been upgraded, as have the driving range flood lights, with new mats, distance markers and netting erected.

On the course, we have had the buggy paths resurfaced and the automatic irrigation systems on both courses brought back into working order. This alone was an expensive exercise, but we also promised to clear out all six lakes and grade and returf the banks but having completed half of these the rain arrived. Long serving members, staff and the greenkeepers say that they cannot remember such quantities of water falling onto the course in over 20 years. Many of the fairways were completely under water. (There

are some photographs [below] in case anyone hadn't realised just how bad it was). This necessitated us diverting money and resources into clearing out and improving the drainage system. Many of the drainage pipes were either badly silted up or inadequate for the volume of water that they needed to take, so the labour and equipment set about laying new pipes and where possible clearing out the existing drains. One job leads to another so more turf and more path material has had to be purchased and laid. As you can imagine, it became a logistical nightmare. The work to improve the remaining water features and further improve the drainage will now need to be reprogrammed for after the upcoming golf season.

We owe our thanks to Tom and his staff at Turfcare Leisure who have carried out the course improvement and maintenance work under very difficult circumstances and with a high degree of professionalism and co-ordination with our course usage requirements.

It will be appreciated by all concerned that had we not been in another lockdown the course would have been unplayable from early January to the present day due to amount of surface water on the course with the fairways and greens being far too soft to take any form of traffic. That may be the only redeeming factor to come out of the latest lockdown. I walked the course last weekend and whilst the standing water has gone the fairways are still very soft under foot.

Work is now beginning to get the course into playing condition for the 29th March re-opening. Members can book tee-times either online or by calling from 15th and non-members from 22nd.

As you will know, memberships are due for renewal at the beginning of next month. We have kept the increases to a minimum despite the massive investment that has been made in improving the complex and the unfortunate downturn in revenues during the past year. Junior membership fees have in fact been cut by half.

We have also introduced a couple of new incentives to try to get younger people into golf. Firstly, any joint members can enrol one of their children or grandchildren who are under 18 years of age as a junior member free of charge. Secondly, any junior member who books lessons with Andy the teaching pro can have free use of the par-3 course during the time that they have lessons booked. We hope that this will encourage younger people to get into the game and perhaps join as playing members in the future.

We have also adopted the England Golf Children, Young Person and Adult Safeguarding policies at the club, as well as appointing a Club Welfare Officer. Amy Campbell has kindly taken on the role. A copy of the policies and further information can be found on our website

We appreciate the support that members have given us during this trying time and hope that we can rely upon your continued support in the months to come. We have an awful lot of catching up to do but I assure you that the staff are keen and enthusiastic about getting going once again and making the facilities better than they have been previously.

We anticipate restarting the ever-popular theme nights in the restaurant as soon as the restrictions on inside dining are lifted. Again, we hope that you will attend and support the efforts made by the staff to arrange these events.

On the matter of GDPR, we are licensed by the ICO and assure you that your personal details are stored securely and only used 'in house' to contact you with relevant club business and not given to any third

parties. If you are uncomfortable with this then please indicate when you renew your membership, otherwise it will be deemed to be acceptable.

If you believe that you are entitled to a discount on this year's membership fee and wish to claim it, please contact the staff to obtain the new amount.

The staff and management look forward to having your renewed support for the forthcoming year and hope that we can all now enjoy a good Spring and Summer of golf and the socialising and camaraderie that it brings. As they say, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone".

Once again, thanks for your ongoing support and we hope to see you on the course, in the bar or on the terrace in the coming months.

Best regards.

Ian Abdee.
Managing Director.



1st Fairway



2nd Green



18th Tee