



## Greenock Golf Club – All Members and Players to Note

### Resumption of Golf – Soon!

We are delighted that the Scottish Government in conjunction with the R&A and SGU have announced that with Phase 1 ‘relaxed’ restrictions we will be allowed to re-open the golf courses at our Club from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May (or very soon thereafter). This is dependent on there being no increase of the infamous “R” number between now and then, so fingers crossed!. I am sure that we are all only too aware of the implications of the ease of the lockdown and it is in that spirit that we have reviewed the available guidance and arrived at the ‘rules’ contained in this article which will minimise the risk to all our members, our families and the public as we start to enjoy the game we have all missed so much in the last 10 weeks. We will update you on the confirmed date to resume which is expected to be announced on Thursday 28 May. Once we have the green light we will operate under the conditions set out below.

Please note – current guidance remains that those members who are ‘shielding’ should stay at home until their medical advice changes and of course those who have any Covid-19 symptoms must stay at home and follow government and medical advice.

We would ask ALL members to read and understand these conditions as they will be **strictly** adhered too until there is any further change.

First a word on our courses..... as everyone would expect the restrictions of the last months have had an impact on the normal progress of the golf courses and they might not be at the stage that we have come to expect by the start of June. That said they are in remarkable condition and this is a real testament of the effort of our green staff Jimmy, John and Darren. Since they returned from furlough they have worked tirelessly with the restrictions placed on them by lockdown rules, access to equipment, materials and safe working practices. They deserve our thanks and admiration for ensuring we have playable courses to return to. A special word of thanks also goes to volunteers Al Roy, Jeff Mitchell and Neil Delussey for their efforts in and around the clubhouse which is looking great!



Thank you guys!



The new procedures can be divided into the following five categories –

<b>Before the Round</b>
<b>Course set-up</b>
<b>During the Round</b>
<b>After the Round</b>
<b>Rules of Golf Related Matters</b>

### **Before the Round**

- **Bookings**

- During the lockdown the Club has worked hard to introduce the new VMS system which **must** be used for the booking and allocation of **ALL** tee times. This includes casual golf on any day as well as competitions when they restart. This will ensure the appropriate interval between games is maintained and avoid congestion at the car park, or front of clubhouse.
- Full details of the new VMS system and use has been distributed separately and we hope you have all managed to navigate the app for the bookings of tee times and this new system will bring many future benefits to the Club. **(If you have any concerns or questions on the VMS app please contact M&H via email at [ar028m8442@ntlworld.com](mailto:ar028m8442@ntlworld.com) )**
- Tee times are available to book now on VMS 5 days in advance.
- Members only. No visitors or Members guests until further notice.
- The system is set up that you can only book a two ball. If playing as a two, please put in your fellow Members name. At present we will not be accepting any 3 or 4-balls even if you are all from the same household.
- There is to be a minimum of 10-minute intervals between tee times which will be reduced to 7 minutes for competitions in due course.
- Until further notice there will be no competition play to let us all get some practice and find that elusive swing! The M&H will update on the competition schedule soon and details of arrangements for entry, score returns etc.

- **Arrival and Waiting to Play**

- The clubhouse will remain closed until further notice. Please note this includes the locker room and toilet facilities. We hope in Phase 2 of the relaxing of restrictions we are able to open areas of the clubhouse and we will update on that as it becomes possible. The bar / dining room area of the Clubhouse will remain closed for the foreseeable with unfortunately no food and drink offerings at present.



- Where members have essential equipment in their locker that they will need under these conditions please contact our Secretary direct by emailing [greenockgolfclub@btinternet.com](mailto:greenockgolfclub@btinternet.com) and a day/time will be arranged for you to remove that equipment.
- The trolley shed will remain open and members should ensure only one member is within at any time, respecting each other's social distancing.
- Members are requested to arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to their arranged tee-time. They should prepare themselves for play at the car park or area surrounding the clubhouse, again respecting social distancing rules and arrive at the tee no more than 5 minutes before their tee-time.
- The Golf Shop will be open in a 'kiosk' style . Opening times will be at the discretion of Duncan. Please queue at least 2 metres apart if other members are checking in.
- Buggies will be available to hire under strict infection control procedures for sole use only. For this period the hire of a buggy will be priced at £10. Before and after each use the user must use the cleaning materials provided to thoroughly clean all 'touch' areas of the buggy. Buggies can be booked by arrangement via the shop. We would ask members to limit use where possible, (let's face it we could all use the exercise!) and leave the available buggies for those members who have difficulty playing without them. Last hire will be at 2.30 pm to enable Duncan to ensure that they are all put away at the end of the day.
- The practice putting greens and the net will be closed and members must not use these areas. We will revise this in due course.

### **Course Set Up**

- **On-Course Items**

- All rakes have been removed.
- Drinking fountain at the 5<sup>th</sup> green is not to be used.
- Benches and bins should not be used, and members are asked to retain any rubbish.

- **Hole and Flagstick**

- Flagsticks will remain but they are not to be touched.



- The hole liner has been inverted which will allow removal of the ball without touching the flag or area surrounding the hole. Members are asked to take care removing their ball. Golf ball 'pick up' tools on your putter are ideal for this!

### **During the Round**

The overriding principle is to maintain social distancing, at least 2 metres apart, at all times on the course.

- **Teeing Areas**
  - Keep 2 metres apart at teeing areas.
- **General**
  - Stay more than 2 metres apart when walking to the ball, searching for a ball and playing shots.
  - Do not touch stray balls.
- **Bunkers**
  - With no rakes on the course, please make your very best efforts to smooth the sand using your club and/or feet.
- **Putting Green**
  - Keep 2 metres apart on the putting greens and remember not to touch the flagstick!
- **Public**
  - During the last months the course has provided the members and public alike an area to exercise and walk dogs. It has been busy at times and members are asked to take care and look out for people who are unaware that golf has restarted. Members are reminded that the public has right of access across the course and others may not be allowed as yet to restart their hobby/sport.

**"FORE"**
- **Green Staff**
  - The Green Staff will still be working with restrictions and safe distancing measures on the course so please be aware and keep your distance to keep them safe at all times.

### **After the Round**



Social distancing is as important after a round as it is during the round, so when your round is over please leave the course and area surrounding the clubhouse immediately. There **must** be no gatherings around the clubhouse area.

### **Rules of Golf Related Matters**

Social / casual/ practice golf will be in play for until further notice and M&H will update in due course on the schedule, any rules, procedures that are to be adopted once competition play is re-introduced.

In the meantime, as provided in the Rules of Golf, scorecards can be electronic, so where possible you can use the VMS app to submit your score and familiarise yourself with the features available.

Be assured we will continually review and be guided by the latest government advice and will update as any changes affect our position.

If we all maintain this guidance we will do our bit and .....



Stay healthy

Executive Committee

Friday 21 May 2020