



15/10/2020

Important Update from Club Council Re Booking Patterns & Re-introduction of Playing Restrictions from 19/10

Fellow Members,

Thank you again for your co-operation since we re-opened the golf course back in May. This has no doubt been a very difficult year for everyone and we are mindful of those club members and people in our community who have been adversely affected by the on-going Covid19 pandemic.

As has been demonstrated by some of the statistics which our Club Manager has circulated in recent weeks (see below) our course has seen a huge amount of golf played on it in the period since re-opening. Thankfully due to relatively kind weather coupled with the hard work of the course maintenance team the course has stood up remarkably well to these increased demands. We are cognisant that this may not be the case as we head into the winter months which bring increased recovery time / reduced growth and we must be mindful to protect our number one asset – the golf course itself. Club Council invited the Course Manager to our last meeting where he explained in detail the importance of resting holes over the winter months so as to give the course the best chance of full recovery as early as possible for next year's playing season. Accordingly, at that meeting we agreed to continue the Club policy of allowing the Course Manager to rest a number of holes on various days of the week from November onwards and details will follow in due course.

You will be aware that Council has taken many difficult decisions since re-opening in an effort to guarantee as much playing time for you the members as possible. These have included:

- *the closure of the golf course to all but members and their immediate family,*
- *the cancellation of our planned hosting of the 2020 Irish Amateur Open Championship,*
- *the decisions that we were unable to facilitate additional tee times requested by the senior men and senior ladies*
- *the decision that we were unable to facilitate Junior Council's request for protected tee times for Juniors and*
- *the cancellation of ALL scheduled AM AM/society events as well as most of the internal club events (with the associated knock-on effect on green fee & bar income as well as a detrimental effect on the business levels for the caterer).*

Of late we have also facilitated extra golf to be played on Sundays via the introduction of a loop of 2 9's and on Wednesday mornings with a similar system. That said we now face into a winter period where demand for tee-times continues to be at unprecedented levels and as Club Council we have had to adjudicate, on an on-going basis, as to how best allocate the limited resource that is our tee times. Whilst we are one club there are many separate sections all looking for their share – ladies competition golf, men's competition golf, senior ladies, senior men, juniors etc.

Based on all of the above at our Club Council meeting earlier this week the following changes were agreed and the GM has been tasked to implement and monitor from 19/10:

- **Casual tee times for Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays to go live Saturdays @ 22.00hrs.**



- **Casual tee times for Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays to go live Wednesdays @ 22.00hrs**
- **Only 1 "guest with" booking allowed per member per booking.**
- **Members are requested to play a total max of 3 rounds Monday-Sunday (rounds played as part of the senior men / senior ladies society timesheets count toward the max of 3*).**

*Unallocated tee time times, booked within 2 hours of the tee-off time itself, will not count against the max. of 3 rounds policy above.

Competitions on Sundays & Tuesdays will continue to go live one week out on Sunday nights and Tuesday nights respectively @ 22.00hrs. It should also be noted that both the Men's and Ladies Clubs have indicated to us their intentions to cease competitive golf on Tuesdays and Sundays from the end of October. Details of how the Tuesday and Sunday timesheets will operate thereafter will issue in due course.

We hope that the above changes help to alleviate some of the issues that have been brought to our attention by the Club Manager & you the members and will monitor the effect of same and review at our November meeting.

It is our hope that the golf course can stay open in the short to medium term and that as we head into the New Year that we might see an improvement in circumstances. Until that improvement comes about we continue to request your patience and understanding as we navigate what are uncharted levels of demand and an ever changing operating environment.

We would like to echo the sentiments of our Club GM's correspondence on Oct 6th where he placed on record his thanks to all members and staff for the high compliance rate experienced to date with the Covid19 policies. We too are aware of several clubs both regionally and nationally who have had Covid19 outbreaks on site which thankfully we have been able to avoid thus far and for which we should be thankful.

Yours In Golf,
Club Council, 2020



Course Playing Statistics

As we move into the winter period and the shortening daylight hours / tee times that accompanies same and as recovery for the golf course become more difficult it is worth bearing in mind the increase in traffic that the course has seen to date this year due to Covid19:

- Number of Golf Bookings Since Re-opening on May 18th to Sept 30th = **43,390**
- Number of Golf Bookings in Same period in 2019 was **29,019** – a **50% Increase Y on Y / an increase of 14,371 bookings**

- Number of Golf Bookings Sept 1st to Sept 30th = **7,389**
- Number of Golf Bookings in Same period in 2019 was **5,460** – a **35% Increase Y on Y / an increase of 1,929 bookings**

- Number of Bookings Sept 23rd to Sept 30th = **2,002**
- Number of Bookings in Same period in 2019 was **1,098** – an **82% Increase Y on Y / an increase of 904 bookings**

Related Note Re Demand for Golf – Provided By Men’s Competition Committee

The men's committee are aware of the feedback of male members in relation to the level of demand being seen this year. Whilst the matter of the total number of Ordinary members allowed under the Club Constitution is a matter for Club Council and ultimately the Club members we would like to bring clarity on some matters raised to date:

1. The total number of Male Members resigned or on Leave of Absence in Feb 2020 (when new male member were accepted by the Men’s Committee & Club Council) was 36 + 37 = 73. The total number of Male Members admitted in 2020 was 26 - the large majority of which were admitted at the same time in February / pre-Covid19.

2. The total current number of Ordinary Male / Senior Male members is 767. The total number of Ord. / Snr. Male members in each of the years 2007-2012 incl. was 849, 854, 857, 843, 831 & 791 respectively.

3. The number of new handicaps issued by the Men's Handicap Sec thus far in 2020 was 47 approx. so we have seen uptake this year well over and above the new members admitted in 2020 and which again we believe is Covid19 related.

4. The President’s Prize this year saw 39% more men play this year when compared with 2019 (317 v 441)
 - The Costello/Bobby Molloy - 52% increase in entrants this year. (270 v 410)
 - In 2020 the average competition entry was 238 from mid-July to early August, when timesheets were operational from 7 to 5. We had demand for closer to 300 each Sunday in 2020.

One final stat - the Intermediate Scratch Cup which was OPEN In 2019 saw 111 play. This increased by 65% to 183 in 2020 when it was a MEMBER ONLY event. Again we believe that the above numbers point to the current level of demand being Covid19 related and which we ask you to bear in mind when considering the merits or otherwise of any individual decision of the committee.

Men’s Committee