

A message from your captain

Rob Bridgeman discusses lockdown and looks forward to playing again

Dear Members

When I signed up for the captaincy in 2020 I had anticipated that I would enjoy a similar experience to other recent captains.

I expected lots of golf, a few problems here and there maybe and, hopefully, plenty of opportunities to raise lots of money for Sobell House Hospice, a charity that is very meaningful to me.

Covid-19 has put a stop to that of course and we now find ourselves in lockdown with no golf, no comps, no matches, no fixing up dates for the knockout comps and, most importantly, no chat, silly or otherwise, before, during and after the game.

The fact is that there is now no meaningful golf activity and something that we counted so dear and took for granted has completely disappeared. I can't even enjoy a coffee or a pint and a slice of Karen's cake.

So, suddenly deprived of a major part of my social and sporting life coupled with the absence of coffee shops, pubs and restaurants I, as I'm sure most of you did, wondered how I was going to get my golf fix during this period of forced inactivity.

There are only so many times you can watch re-runs of the 2019 Masters and even tips on chipping from the 'greats' can wear a bit thin after a time. On the upside the communication links between fellow members have increased to such an extent that although Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram may not yet be quaking in

their shoes, recipients are kept entertained with jokes (both old and new), videos and anecdotes from like minded individuals in shared if separate incarceration.

We are encouraged to practice at home and Paul has issued a few tips to keep us on our toes (see Page 2).

I have taken Paul's advice and turned my garden into a short game arena although the downside is that my neighbours are

already a bit hacked off as my constant plea of 'can I have my ball back please' is wearing a bit thin. Well, it's not easy to chip off a doormat!

As far as non-golfing activities are concerned, there is always the daily walk that is not only allowed but positively encouraged by the government, to interrupt the DIY. Even so, I had forgotten just how far a couple of miles walk seems when you don't have a golf club to hand.

Of course what we really want is to be back out on the course, especially at this time of the year with such wonderful weather. I know I am really looking forward to it when I am sure we will enjoy much better conditions than those we endured before the enforced break. Judging by



2020 Captain Rob Bridgeman

the pic on Page 2 the course is looking as good as we know it can at this time or the year.

At this stage we cannot forecast what the exit strategy will be but I'm hopeful that golf can be relatively easy to integrate back into post-virus landscape. Our planned procedures prior to lockdown were very sensible and should allow us to start playing again in small groups. Fingers crossed!

I am very aware that within the club we will have members who are essential workers who have to go into work each day. We thank you for your commitment and hope you and your family stay safe and well in these unprecedented times.

Take care everyone and I hope to see you all again soon.

Best regards, Rob

**See Page 2 for: Paul's lockdown tips
Update on Name the Day sweepstake
A reminder of what's waiting for us!**

Looking forward to playing WBGC again? May we whet your appetite?

Thanks to Pat Whelehan for the image.



Name the Day for Resumption of Play

Last week we announced a sweepstake originally conceived by Roger Gaskell for the MTTTF Boys and hijacked by TTNB.

Thanks to Gale McAuley, the competition now has a name. A fine bottle of wine awaits the winner.

Entries so far:

Andrew Kerr:	May 20
Tom McAuley:	May 22
Pete Hill:	May 28
Gale McAuley:	May 29
Roger Gaskell:	June 1
Andy Robbins:	June 3
Rob Bridgeman:	June 6
Nick Jones:	June 8
Tony Cleaver:	June 13
Martin Anscombe:	June 17
Bob Fagg:	June 24
Harry White:	June 29
Bob Patten:	July 1
George Jameson:	July 1
Phil Cannon:	July 1
Brian Davis:	July 1
Tina Mulford:	July 4
Geoff Owen:	July 5
Steven Salter:	July 13
Graham Mort:	July 15
Colin Bell:	August 1
Colin Harrison:	August 3
Steve Cooper:	August 31
Dave Ware:	September 1

Paul's lockdown coaching tips

Our esteemed pro, Paul Simpson, has not been idle during lockdown and has been providing members with tips on chipping and putting accompanied by videos that demonstrate just how it should be done.

Analysis on Facebook

Paul has also posted on the WBGC Facebook page an offer that if members would like to send in videos of their swings he would check them over and send advice back.

Bare lies and flops from a flip-flop

In answer to an enquiry from a member about how to play chip shots from a bare lie Paul replied with two videos of Joe, one playing from a wooden sleeper (about as bare as it gets) and, intriguingly, a flop shot from a flip-flop.

These were accompanied by the following advice:

Playing from the patio, sleeper or any hardpan lie all depends on how much bounce you have on your chosen club. You'll see in the video the hands are placed slightly forward to reduce the club's bounce. Then the chest and arms rock back and through allowing the loft to do the work. Never scoop or try and lift the ball in the air or you'll increase the bounce and take someone's knees off! Be sure to retain a relaxed grip pressure throughout.

One-handed drill demo

On another video Paul plays a shot that he describes as a great practice drill for those delicate little lob shots from the rough:

Using a 58 or 60 degree wedge and using the right hand only, slide the loft under the ball thus helping to retain maximum loft throughout the strike.

This tip is accompanied by a video showing Paul with right hand only delicately chipping the ball into the air so that on the follow-through the club then chips the ball so he can catch it with his left hand. Not for the faint-hearted!

Putting

Paul is a great advocate of practicing putting indoors on a carpet and gives the following advice:

When practicing, always mark a line on the ball and position the centre indication line on the putter so it forms a continuous line through the ball. Not striking the ball out of, or very near, the centre of the putter will cause an inconsistent roll on your putts. By lining up correctly you will also see the putter face remaining square through the strike and remaining square through to the finish. Try and video yourself from near ground level to see if your making a central strike.

Thanks to Paul for all his efforts and why not keep up to date with him on the WBGC Facebook page.

Dead heat for silly story of the week

* Jonathan Ross has been accused of shoplifting a kitchen utensil from Tesco. He reckoned it was a whisk worth taking.

* Seven wheelchair athletes have been banned from the Paralympics after they tested positive for WD40.

Thanks to past-member, Derek Owen, for both items