



TEE TIMES NEWS BULLETIN

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Back where we want to be

WHAT A great day March 29 2021 promises to be! We are free to start playing golf again that day and, because the clocks go forward the day before, we will have an extra hour of daylight in which to play.

The good news that we recommence golf on that day was confirmed in a Member Update from the GC sent out on March 5. Of course, as we have written in these pages often over the past 12 months, it won't be golf as we know it. However, with the positive news of the effect the vaccination programme is having on all the relevant statistics we can look forward to getting back to normal golf with more confidence than of late.

The first thing we as members should do is to thank the officers and GC for all the hard work that they have undertaken over the past 12 months. Rules and disciplines have changed continuously over this period and with each change amendments have been made to general play and competitive golf.

Below is a summary of what the GC said in the update.

Four-balls

It's really good news that we are allowed to restart in four-balls at nine-minute tee intervals from March 29. Not only does this immeasurably improve the social aspects of the game, it means, together with the longer days, that many more members can play each day.

Short-term restrictions

Despite this increased capacity, the course is still likely to be very busy and the GC is imposing certain restrictions that it hopes will only apply for a week or so. Members will initially be restricted to three rounds a week, will not be able to book on consecutive days and will not be able to invite guests.

If there are available tee times three days prior to the day being booked then members will be able to exceed the three booking a week limit. Additionally, if there are gaps in tee times these will be opened up to non-members or members' guests two days before the booking date.

These restrictions will be continually monitored and, hopefully, adjusted as the days get longer and more tee times become available.

Covid rules OK?

Before the third lockdown it was highlighted that a number of members had fallen into old habits and the update reminds us of the importance of obeying social distancing rules.

- *Players should not arrive at the course until 20 minutes before their tee time.*
- *The driving range will initially remain closed as the GC is keen to reduce the risk of groups congregating.*
- *Players should not arrive at the putting green until ten minutes before their tee time.*
- *Only one group at a time should assemble on the first tee.*
- *Groups should not assemble at any time at the halfway hut, car park or patio and clubhouse area.*
- *The pro-shop will be closed for sale of non-essential items.*

To reduce members congregating at the notice board, it is planned to remove the non-essential notices and create individual handicap allowance sheets that will be located near the scorecards. You can, of course, also check your handicap index via HowDidIDo.

It's no pipe dream

GETTING back to golf may be just a pipe dream for us golfers but to Patrick Whelehan and his team it's a lot of hard graft. The picture shows work carried out this week on installing part of the 1,600 metres of new irrigation piping that has been replaced since the autumn.

Last Tuesday alone the boys installed 150 metres of MDPE piping at the fourth and eleventh greens plus eight sprinklers. The new material replaces old PVC pipes that were installed some forty years ago and are now prone to leaking.

Good job team. Just a 120 acres or so of grass to cut and we're good to go.



Membership fees during lockdown

THE MEMBER Update sent on March 5 ended by thanking all members who have continued to pay their subscription while the course has been closed. The update added that 60% of golf courses have continued to ask for their full membership fees and Bournebridge Golf has been very fair in reducing the membership fees during the previous lockdowns. Our chairman, Kevin Hopwood, and Bournebridge Golf are in discussion and a further update will be issued in due course.

Comps planning ahead

FOR THE umpteenth time over the past 12 months the comps boys and girls have been Zooming away trying to optimise our competition programme in the face of ever-changing rules and regulations.

There are a number of issues to resolve but be assured that competitive golf will be back at WBGC as soon as possible probably commencing with the Liddiard and Harris Cup. More information will be sent by the GC and appear in these pages as soon as the issues are resolved.

Bill Richardson

September 16 1937 – February 21 2021

AS WAS announced in a Member Update on February 23, Bill Richardson died on February 21 at the age of 83. Bill joined West Berks in September 1981 and was an extremely active member in all aspects of the club until illness prevented him from playing from 2012 onwards. Bill was men's captain in 1991 and he served on the general committee in various capacities during his time at the club.

As his record shows, he was also very active on the course. He was senior champion in 1990 and during the 1980s he won the Wise Trophy, Badger Trophy, Crawford Cup, Pro's Cup, Bennett Cup and Gillas Cup. In mixed events he won the Gamhall Trophy in 1984 with Ann Davies and the Mixed Foursomes with Pat Gamalatte in 1985. In addition, Bill and his wife Lynn, who was a past lady captain and long-standing member of the ladies' section also won the Husbands and Wives Trophy no less than four times. Quite a record!

While putting this tribute together there was a good deal of debate about when Bill joined West Berks. His family thought it was 1982 but some had him a member before 1980. Thanks to Tina Clayton we can confirm it was September 1981. Surely this is a clear indication that none of us old stagers who joined around that time can remember the club without him. Bill really was part of the fabric of the club throughout that period.

As soon as the news went out there was a stream of emails expressing great sadness about Bill passing and I am sure everyone who knew Bill joins in offering our sincere condolences to Lynn, their sons Mark and Paul and the rest of the family.

I thank everyone who has contributed to this tribute to Bill.

Dave Ware



WBGC Pro-Shop

Members only pre-opening offer

New 2021 stock available at better than online prices

***M1 electric trolley with lithium battery**

RRP £599 - Online price £529

Shop offer £489 includes free umbrella holder

***S1 electric trolley with lithium battery**

RRP £549 - Online price £499

Shop offer £459 Includes free umbrella holder

***5 to PW Callaway Mavrik graphite shaft irons**

RRP £899 - Online price £629 - **Offer price £499**

***2021 Cube push trolley**

RRP £189 - Online £159 - **Offer price £139**

***2021 Z1 push trolley**

RRP £129 - Online £99 - **Offer price £89**

***2021 Dry Series cart bag**

RRP £239 - Online £219 - **Offer price £189**

***2021 Lite Series cart bag**

RRP £129 - Online £109 - **Offer price £99**

To order contact: paulsimpsongolf@gmail.com

A click and collect service will be available for reserved items

Online Booking

THE UPDATE on March 5 explained that, following issues experienced with the V1 booking system last year, the GC has decided to use BRS, a system acknowledged as the market leader in online golf booking and used by several golf clubs in the area.

ClubV1 and HowDidIDo will be continued to use for competition and handicap management, but tee bookings for both casual golf and competitions will be via BRS.

Competitors will continue to be required to sign into competitions and enter their scores via the HowDidIDo/PSI machine in the foyer or the app on your mobile or home computer. The foyer will be open for one person at a time under Covid restrictions and the use of the app would be preferred to assist social distancing. If you choose to use your home computer please enter your scores as soon as possible after the end of your round.

Note: In order to use the BRS system it is necessary for every member to register with BRS and the update asks all members to reply to the update email giving the club permission to share your name and email address with BRS. Once you have been added to BRS you will receive a registration email with your username allowing you to complete the registration process.