

Dear Member

I hope this email finds you and your family well. I wanted to get in touch to update you on the current situation at the Club and to go over the Clubs position on Golf fees which are due on the 1st April. I am sorry for the delay in sending this to you but as you can imagine there have been a number of important issues to deal with and unfortunately they have had to be dealt with in a particular order. Below is a brief outline as to what has been carried out to date:

Clubhouse Staff – All staff have been sent home and myself and Jonathan have access to our computer system to answer emails. Staff that have been sent home will be registered on the governments employee retention scheme and will be paid 80% of their average income. Please note details of this scheme are still not finalised it is hoped that this will be in place by the end of April.

Clubhouse – The clubhouse has been fully cleaned and shutdown, with heating systems at a minimum and where possible pipes drained, lights off etc etc.

Green staff – Thanks to Government advice put out through BIGGA, R&A, PGA and Scottish golf Green Staff are allowed to carry out essential maintenance work and so staff will continue to prepare the course to the minimum set out by the government. The Guidelines allow for some treatments and as such we will be applying a feed to the site as well as dealing with weeds and disease as they arise. Staff obviously require support in the purchase of materials, chemicals fuel etc and Jonathan and I will assist with this. Please note that the costs for the greens staff and the maintenance of the course is being fully met by Craigiellaw.

Bookings – All bookings in the lodge and on the course up to the end of May have been contacted and I am thankful to say most bookings have been rescheduled to later in the year or into 2021 with many people keen to still visit and are happy for deposits to be held by us until new dates are found.

Membership Fees – The fees are due on the 1st April and we have had a small number of members query the position on paying/credit whilst the course is closed. We are in an awkward position in that many members have already paid (and can I thank you for your support), some who are on our direct debit scheme will see the payments are already set up to come out of accounts and obviously we have some members still to pay. Taking this into account with the other problem of not knowing how long the current (and possibly new) restrictions will last gives us the issue of how to deal with lost playing time whilst the course is closed.

To put things into perspective the membership fees cover slightly less than the cost of maintaining the course. We all hope that we can get the course open again soon and get everyone out playing and we are doing everything we are allowed to to make sure that can happen. What we are asking for just now is for all members to pay their fees as normal and once we have some clarity on when we can open up again we will offer all paid up members a credit, reward or refund to compensate for lost time.

In terms of ways to pay at the moment:

Bank transfer - details were in the membership offer but can be re supplied please add member number as reference

Cheque -Mail a cheque to us

Debit or Credit Card - Email over card details (suggest sending over the main number, expiry date and security digits in a few emails) or telephone 01875 870803 this number will not always be manned but you can leave a message with your details or request that we call you back.

Direct Debit - If you wish to move over to pay by Fairway Credit then please let us know and we can mail out a form to you. Anyone who has previously signed up to Fairway Credit your fees will continue to be paid as normal.

We are extending the payment date until the 30th April to give members the time to pay, we also understand that the current situation has put immense stress on individuals finances and we are happy to look at a further extension on a case by case basis. If you wish to have a further extension please email us detailing reasons. Anyone who has not paid their fee or contacted the club by the 30th April will have their membership withdrawn.

I hope the information above provides some clarity of the clubs position in a very uncertain time. I am confident that with the help that the Government has set out to employees and to business, the help that Wemyss and March Estate are currently providing and with the help of our members we will get through this crisis and all enjoy the facilities at Craigielaw soon.

Please keep safe and well and I hope to see you at the Club as soon as.

Kind regards  
Derek Scott