

Members Update 5th February 2021

It is clear from the First Ministers statement in Parliament on Tuesday that we still have a while to go in the current lockdown. Whilst frustrating for many members and indeed all at Craighielaw case numbers seem to be dropping at a good rate and the vaccine rollout seems to be going well as such I hope we can welcome back all those members who live out with the local area very soon, we will of course update all members when restrictions ease.

Golf Course

Our new head greenkeeper Paul Hay has settled in well and is busy carrying out planned work including 20 bunker renovations and trying to lift the base of some to shallow them out, plug patching out some rogue grasses on greens as well as cutting back the rough ready for a spray treatment of herbicide to kill off the unwanted grasses/weeds leaving light wispy grass for the season ahead. There has also been a top dressing and grooming of the greens, the surfaces have remained in good condition despite heavy play all the way up to Christmas and subsequent wet and cold weather. Paul also installed a temporary pump at the 11th to drain water from the fairway, unfortunately the freezing temperatures have hindered its use. We have authorised the installation of the permanent replacement pump which will fully drain the area, this should be installed in the coming days.

On top of this Paul and Jonathan are looking at costs for treatments to be applied through the year as well as options for replacement course machinery set to arrive in April. Paul is actively putting up course update posts on social media to keep all informed.

Clubhouse

It has been very frustrating to not have the clubhouse open, I know the Clubhouse team did all they could to keep the place safe for all.

Anne Burns has decided to leave the club so she can assist with child care of her new granddaughter, whilst sad to leave I know she is looking forward to the new job! We are looking at how we fill the gap made by Anne's departure and hope to have news soon. I will take this opportunity in thanking Anne for all her work in the last number of years looking after the clubhouse. The rest of the clubhouse team remain on furlough but are ready to get started again when allowed.

WHS and Events

I am pleased to say that the majority of issues related to the WHS and connection to our handicap software are resolved and the system seems to be working well albeit there is not a lot happening re handicaps just now.

We have set a proposed fixture list and I know there are some matches being scheduled by team managers, we will post the list on the website once we know restrictions lift sufficiently to allow the events to go ahead. 2021 marks Craighielaw's 20th anniversary and it is hoped that we can mark the year with a number of key events and get together if allowed.

Subscriptions

We are still a number of weeks away from preparing the subscriptions but I wanted to inform you that we will be applying a discount to all the main categories renewing this year as a gesture for lost time through the 2020 season. I understand that not all members have lost the same amount of time and there have been a lot of things to consider in reaching the decision we have. I have noted some of the considerations below:

- Different locations were prohibited on different dates
- Whilst travel was advice only some members chose to travel to the club.
- There were members that were shielding and did not get to the club when many members were playing almost every day.
- Play as I have stated in previous updates was up overall by 75% and in some weeks was up 3 fold from the year before, so when allowed most members made good use of the course.
- We have also had to maintain the course throughout the year and whilst Wemyss and March Estates have and are still funding the operation at the club we do still require subscriptions to survive.

Derek Scott
Craigielaw