

Dear Member,

The Committee of Management met on Friday May 8th. We are hopeful for the future of our club given the improved quality of the playing surface and the character of our members and officers. We are also cautious & prudent about the short to medium term as there is a considerable financial risk to the club at present. We are following the GUI/ILGU Protocol for the return of golf in the Republic of Ireland May 2020.

In response to the Covid 19 crisis, our golf course has been closed since mid March. We will hopefully get back to golf on a reduced basis from mid May. Golf is being reintroduced in a safe, socially distant manner. Therefore there are significant changes to how we will play our golf in the short to medium term and detailed information follows. **All golf, including casual golf needs to be booked before playing, on the BRS.** All golf to start from the 1st tee only and after having booked beforehand on the BRS. This measure is to ensure safety in the community and to assist with potential tracing of impacted persons. Booking on the BRS will be possible from Tuesday 12th May @ 11.00am. Golf competitions, all going well, will return for members only on a reduced basis, from June 8th. And Open Competitions will return on a reduced basis in late June. The situation with Greens Fee and Society Golf is unclear but possibly to return on a reduced basis in July.

Golf based income from green fees, societies and competitions has deteriorated sharply and remains tenuous. Since early March, there is no income from the bar or restaurant. Partial income may return as we move through the summer. Based on last year's accounts, we generated an income from late spring to early Autumn of €12,000 to €14,000 per month. This income was not available for most of March, all of April and will not be available for most of May. We will have some golf and clubhouse income for the remainder of the summer though with continued Social Distancing measures, our projected income from golf and clubhouse will continue to be greatly reduced.

Essential maintenance and administration of the club continues with weekly costs despite being offset by unfortunate though necessary redundancies, reduced wages and reduced working week for remaining staff. Maintenance of the golf course, the clubhouse and general administration costs continue despite the lack of golf related income. We are indeed fortunate of being able to avail of the Governments Covid 19 subsidy to the remaining staff. Indications are that this will continue after mid June though perhaps at a reduced level.

So, taking in these two factors into consideration:

- The reduction in traditional golf related income during our busiest months of 2020 &
- The continuance of essential though reduced maintenance and administration,

We are taking the exceptional step of charging members to play for all golf on the course. There was considerable debate about the fairness and necessity of this measure. We are taking this measure to make it more likely that the club will survive the extensive risks of this Covid 10 emergency. We are reluctantly introducing a temporary €5 per booking on the BRS for all casual golf. The necessity for this booking fee and the amount of this fee will remain under review as we progress through the summer. I am in no doubt that there will be a range of opinion on this measure and indeed on many other measures we have taken. Your opinions are valid and I encourage members to share their opinion through all committees & officers. We hope that members will understand that this exceptional booking fee is essential to the survival of our club as our society strives to survive this health emergency and economic recession.

Juveniles: GUI guidelines indicate juveniles must play with an adult from May 18th and where possible, this should be a member of their own household. Juveniles may play together from June 29th. There will be no group coaching for the remainder of the summer.

Further News: We will trial a new system to record and upload golf competition scores using a smartphone. Further details will follow. The intention is to avoid having to use scorecards and to avoid having other payers hold or mark you card.

Take away food and drink will hopefully be available from May 18th from outside the clubhouse.

We have had excellent weather since the closure of the course leading to great growth throughout the course. Staff have been managing to stay on top of grass cutting with machine. The first tee box looks excellent with further enhancement of the 11th, 16th and 18th tee boxes.

We are hopeful for the long term survival off the course as there has been a number of recent enquiries for golf membership. It is essential that our membership continues to grow as this is the most secure and loyal base for the financial success of the club.

Covid 19 Emergency Fund *Confined Draw*

We were thrilled with the response of so many members to this draw. 160 units have been sold. Thank you to all who contributed so generously. Thank you also to those members and officers who promoted this draw. Our cash flow situation has therefore improved and despite minimum income from the restaurant or golf since early March, we are in a healthy situation **until the end of May**.

The winners to date were:

Draw 1	Draw 2	Draw 3	Draw 4	Draw 5
April 9 th	April 16 th	April 23 rd	April 30 th	May 7 th
Ned O'Flynn	John Lonergan	Seamus Clifford	Niall & Audrey Cremen	Mick Allen
Noel & Carmel Crowley	Rose & Lesley Edwards	Helen Arnold,	Vera Santry	Mary Barry
Áine O'Grady	Michael Murphy	Pat O'Brien	Kieran & Anna Marie McCarthy	Joe Whyte

Guidelines for the Return of Golf: adapted from the GUI/ILGU Protocol

Golf clubs in the Republic of Ireland can resume activity from May 18th under the Irish government's Roadmap for Reopening of Society and Business once they follow the protocol jointly published by the GUI and ILGU. There will be a phased reintroduction to golf. We have been advised that the Government will continue to monitor the situation closely and have not ruled out the reintroduction of restrictions which could see golf clubs closed once again if the Protocol is not followed or if there is a reversal in Covid 19 health trends.

- **If you are ill or have Covid 19 symptoms, please stay at home.**
- **All golf needs to be booked prior to play and players need to be logged on the timesheet.** Under no circumstances should you arrive at the club without booking in advance.
- **Travel to & from the golf course on your own or with members of your own household only. Practice safe hygiene by washing your hands before arrival.**
- Arrive at the club no more than 15 minutes prior to play.
- **Observe physical distancing rules (2 metres apart) at all times. Change your shoes in the car park; do not use the locker room for changing your clothes or shoes.**
- **Play in 2 ball or three ball with timesheet intervals of not less than 12 minute intervals. All play is to start on the first tee.**
- **Avoid exchanging equipment such as tees, balls, markers or drinks or food with other players. Do not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball.**
- **Do not arrive at the first tee more than 5 minutes before your allotted tee time.**
- **Following play of a hole, do not enter the next teeing ground until the all members of the group in front have played their teeshots and exited the teeing ground.**
- **If you must use a golf buggy, it must only be used by you and cannot be shared with or used by another player during the round.**
- **If your ball is lost, unplayable, or in a penalty area, don't take an option under the rules that involves doubling back on your position on the course. Instead, use an option that allows you to keep your position on the course.**
- **Do not use on-course ball cleaners, divot bags, bunker rakes etc. Do not touch the flag or flagstick. Putt with the flagstick in and remove your own ball from the hole using the new Putting Buddy.**
- **After your round, return directly to your car, change your shoes, put your equipment in your car and leave. Do not store your equipment in the locker room. Do not enter the clubhouse except to use the toilet.**

Seamas Feehan, Committee of Management Chairperson