



**TORWOODLEE GOLF CLUB
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CORONAVIRUS STATEMENT

20-03-20

Dear Member,

The Torwoodlee management committee met tonight to discuss the global pandemic crisis effect on the club and would like to issue the following statement: -

As a result of this awful disease we all face very worrying times in the days, weeks and months ahead. We are already starting to feel the personal and economic effects of it and as such this will have a large impact on the club and we will therefore need to adapt to get through this period. Your patience and co-operation are appreciated during this challenging time. The golf course will continue to be maintained and remain open for play albeit with some restrictions to reduce the possibility of transmission. We are doing our utmost to be pro-active by keeping abreast of the UK Government guidelines/instructions daily and will always make an effort to reduce the level of inconvenience as far as is reasonably possible. Most importantly, if there is anything that we can do to assist you (within reason and the remit of the golf club business) then please contact me on 07816222070.

Of paramount importance is the health of our Members, Staff and their families. **To ensure that risk is minimised please do not come to the club if you are suffering from any symptoms associated with Coronavirus or have been in contact with anyone suffering within 14 days.**

Golf is one of the greatest sports on earth as it lets people of all ages, gender and ability compete, exercise and socialise at the same time. It is played in an outdoor setting where the risk of contracting Covid-19 is low and therefore this is why the course will remain open. Please see following quotes in support of this: -

First, Sir Patrick Vallance (UK Chief Scientific Advisor), who was asked by Dean Russell MP "If someone wants to play golf, can they still do that if they're not close together?"

Sir Patrick answered: "It is OK – if you keep a distance. We're not asking everyone to be completely isolated. The specific advice is to avoid close contact. A walk is OK if you keep a distance."

Secondly Dr Catherine Troisi, infectious disease epidemiologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center, who said, "Golf as it's normally played – outdoors, with natural social-distancing built in – would be fairly safe. I would say that in the actual playing of golf, you're not at much risk. Sunlight and other environmental conditions can kill viruses like this, so it is probable that that is true for this novel coronavirus, as well. Also, relieving stress by playing golf outdoors helps your immune system. Physical activity boosts your immune system, so for both mental and physical health it's good to get activity however you can get it without putting yourself at risk."

The following will be implemented at Torwoodlee from Saturday 22nd March onwards until April 30th but this may be extended subject to any future government advice or regulations.

Clubhouse closure

With effect from Tonight Midnight there will be no access to the Clubhouse except for toilets. The locker room will remain open for Members to get access to their golf clubs though it would be helpful if those who are able to keep their clubs out with the golf club premises, do so to minimise cross infection. The same applies to all trolleys. Could all members please carry out this request as soon as possible.

Competitions -

- All competitions on the fixture list are **cancelled until 30th April** with immediate effect – Tomorrows Stroke 21st March is Cancelled – players can still organise their own sweep and are welcome to play from Medal Tees.
- The Club Matchplay events should be entered as normal but the draws are suspended until further notice.

Course - In order to prevent cross infection between players: -

- Rakes have been removed from all bunkers – please smooth sand with your feet or a club
- Bags have been placed over Ball washers
- Waste bins have been removed from the course – please take your litter home with you
- The Hole cups have been raised to prevent the ball dropping into the hole, if your ball hits the cup it counts as in
- Do not remove the flagsticks, that is **an instruction**, you **must follow** irrespective of your preference. Anecdotally, it is evident that habit more than thoughtlessness leads to accidental contact. If you see your playing partners heading towards the flagstick - please remind them before they get there!
- Do not pickup anyone else's ball, equipment, broken tees etc.

Buggies – The use of all club buggies on the golf course has been suspended due to the high risk of cross infection between users if they are used.

Lockers – Members are advised that in order to minimise cross infection they remove their clubs from their lockers and their trolleys from the trolley sheds as soon as possible

Locker Rooms – Please do not leave any items of clothing in the locker rooms – shoes should be changed in the carpark, on Monday 23rd all remaining items within the locker rooms will be removed

Air guns – These will be removed again to prevent contamination and the compressor turned off

Toilets – Please use the toilets as normal and wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water

Lucky letters – This will be suspended after this Saturday's draw until further notice

Visitors - are still welcome to come and play the course but must book and pay online through BRS on our website

Website and phone system – These will be updated accordingly with information on the above later today

Staff – It is hoped to redeploy clubhouse staff to the Course where possible

Membership – **There remain a number of 2019 members who have not yet rejoined for 2020, I would encourage these people to please rejoin and partake in what could be the only sport that can still be played under the current circumstances. Also a reminder that members who have already paid 50% of their subs in October should make the remaining 50% payment by the end of this month if possible.**

Health

Do not to come to the club if you are suffering any cold or flu like symptoms or have a persistent cough. In such an event, please follow government guidelines to self-isolate.

If you have tested positive for the virus, please inform the Club when you were last at the club so appropriate action can be taken and, as necessary, any contacts can be traced.

Avoid handshakes and other embraces. Try an elbow bump or foot bump. Or, since it's golf, a club tap.

If coughing or sneezing when at the club, please use paper tissues and bin after use and wash your hands.

While at the Club please wash your hands regularly and thoroughly

Avoid touching your face or eyes.

Your patience and co-operation are appreciated during this challenging and unique time. The golf course is open for play and hopefully there will be no further restrictions. We are doing our utmost to be pro-active and reduce the level of inconvenience as far as is reasonably possible.

Clearly, this is an unprecedented situation and the decisions made are cognizant of the restrictions currently advised, to prevent potential infection but also to keep a form of normality as far as is possible.

Please remember that our committee are made up of volunteers and we are all in this together and we are doing our best for everyone at the club as well as having our own personal situations to attend to. Stay safe and remember to just enjoy getting out on the course and hopefully we can get back to some sort of normality very soon.

Best regards

Robin Brydon (Chairman)

