



Communications Group

(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)

March 2021 Newsletter

Dear Members

We'll soon be dusting off those golf clubs hibernating in the garage, and venturing out onto the golf course. This Newsletter looks at the progress on the course, the provisional diary for club knock-out competitions and the Centenary plans.

You will have seen the message from the Management Committee, explaining the 2021 subscriptions arrangements, and by now the Office will have contacted you with the details and deadlines. We're pleased that we can offer attractive deals for members old and new for the coming season, acknowledging the hit that we've all taken and rewarding the loyalty of members.

Please pay your subs as soon as possible, so we can move positively into the new financial year.

Good news!
By the end of March we will be back on the golf course, as pandemic restrictions are eased.

On the Course

- ***Before the second furlough, the Greens team finished most of the planned winter programme. We only furloughed our Greens staff for three weeks, as the pressure of work on the course was heavy.***

- *Irrigation has been extended on approaches to greens, which should improve those approaches and the fringes no end. We have also extended irrigation on the 1st, 2nd and 18th fairways.*
- *The bunker on the 11th has been refurbished and surrounding bare area turfed. The photos below show the dramatic improvement there.*
- *The Greens team returned on Mon 2nd March to prepare the course for re-opening on March 29th.*
- *Much work has been done with the grass seeder to improve the grass cover throughout the playing area of the course.*
- *All greens will be tined and top dressed, tees prepared, and fairways fed and moss treated.*
- *There has been considerable work on the trees, notably to the right of the 1st green, the left of the 12th, and the right of the 17th, to encourage grass growth.*
- *The large oak tree in front of the 4th tee has been pruned to retain its shape but reduce penalty potential.*
- *The rough has been fertilised to encourage growth, so good shots are less likely to be penalised by running down.*
- *The 12 fairway is being re-shaped on the right, to widen and improve play.*
- *We have also taken steps to improve the drainage on 15th and 18th fairways. We have had both fairways treated with 'earthquaker' equipment which creates better drainage up to 800 cm down by the injection of compressed air. We have been lucky in obtaining this treatment at a very reduced rate. Hopefully this will be effective in improving playability. In the longer term it may be necessary to install drainage but this will be a considerably costlier solution.*
- *We are working on signage to reinforce the footpath locations to ensure walkers return to the correct routes.*
- *There is a Greens Twitter feed, where you can get lots of information and photos posted by Carl and his team. Go to #retfordgreens.*

The 11th bunker repaired



1st green tined and sanded



New signboard on 1st



Ted's Tor, behind 18th, tidied up, short back and sides

The new signboards on each tee should soon be in place, with sponsors names to be allocated by a draw.

A lot of hard work, largely voluntary, has been put in to improve the car parking areas, with clearance of shrubbery next to the fencing. Many thanks to those members who have made such a difference to the look of that area.

Competitions and Bookings

Tee Bookings

The booking system is as before, with bookings 7 days in advance. The first day of play is 29th March, so bookings open at 4pm on 22nd March. 4 balls are permitted, there will be an 8 minutes slot for each tee time, and there will be no restriction on the number of bookings you want to make.

Competitions for Ladies

You will have been contacted already about these.

All internal competitions start from 6th April.

Please contact Angie Dyer to enter any of the competitions.

Ladies' Am-Am is on 23rd April; there are 12 teams already entered for this.

Competitions for Gents

Craig will have contacted you about entries for internal competitions. Here's a summary of the main points.

- *The club website diary will be up to date showing all club competitions by Sunday 21st March.*
- *The first midweek stableford will be Wednesday 7th April*
- *First Sunday Competition Stableford 1 will be on 11th April*
- *Gents Captain v Vice Captain 18th April (details to follow)*
- *All gents and mixed knock out entries will open on Monday 29th March and close at 4 PM on Sunday 18th April. All entries must be made at the pro shop. Entries will NOT be accepted by phone or email*
- *There will be a change to the scratch knock out this year with the lowest 32 players going into the draw with the lowest 8 players seeded.*
- *Remote score input.*
There will be the option to enter scores for competitions and casual rounds via smart phones.
For a step by step guide please go to U-tube then search "club systems" and view the video titled "How To Use Mobile Score Input". The video is only 2m 29s long.
For any more info please call the pro shop.

At present the Centenary celebrations, moved from 2020 to 2021, are still on hold, and we'll let you know as soon as possible about events and dates.

Club House, Social Events and Wider Matters

- ***At present we are not able to open the bar and restaurant at the clubhouse, and the Covid safety rules, about social distancing and wearing masks, still apply around the changing rooms and Pro's Shop.***
- ***From 12th April we hope to offer an outside bar service, using a canopy-covered balcony.***
- ***We are currently arranging for alternative catering contracts in the clubhouse. Greg and Charlotte will continue to provide a bar service until we have a replacement. We thank them for all their work, especially in these difficult times, and we wish them well in their new venture.***

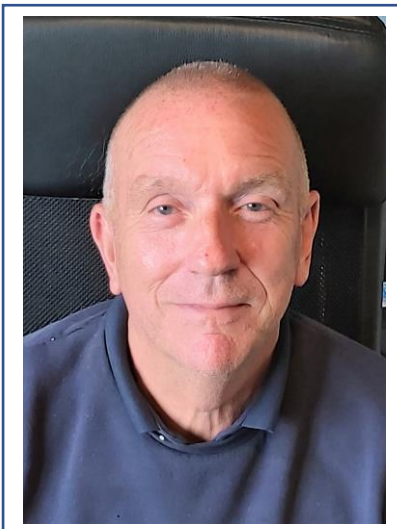
We are developing our **Safeguarding policies and practice**, to ensure the Club is a safe place for all. Steve Hyatt is our Safeguarding Officer, and our policies on Safeguarding Young People and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults are available in the Clubhouse and from the office. See details below.

Golf should be fun!

You should feel safe and enjoy your sport.

Is something worrying you?
Do you need someone to talk to?

Speak to your club welfare officer.



Club Welfare Officers Name:
Steve Hyatt

Email address:
office@retfordgolfclub.co.uk

Telephone Number:
01777703733

Alternatively, you can speak to someone at

ChildLine 0800 1111 | NSPCC 0808 800 5000 | England Golf 01526
351851

Very best wishes from

The Communications Group (on behalf of the Management Committee)