



WGC NEWSLETTER

Issue 2
January 2019

Welcome to the second edition of our Newsletter

Captains Message

I would like to thank all members of Walmersley Golf Club for their courtesy, loyalty and support over the past 12 months. After such a disastrous summer and the impact on the course, the Phoenix has risen and the course is in fantastic condition. Thanks to Brett and his team and all the volunteers who have worked in the clubhouse or out on the course. The future is looking bright and I know everyone will get behind Captains Steve Fox, Helen Parkinson and their teams. Thank you.

Finance

We continue to maintain a tight control over our finances with all expenditure monitored carefully.

Subscriptions are due on the 1st April and prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

Fund Raising

In March, the Club and Karl (our professional) are holding a penny raffle. YOU COULD WIN AN ELECTRIC GOLF TROLLEY FOR 1p.

Tickets are from 001 to 500. Whichever ticket you draw you pay in pence, e.g. Ticket 125 = £1.25p, 098 = 98p and 303 = £3.03p etc. So it's the luck of the draw!

Once EVERY TICKET IS SOLD, the draw for prizes will take place, with numerous other prizes like an Electric Trolley Golf Bag, a golf carry bag, golf shoes, a putter and many more prizes.

This draw is for members only. Not open to guests, visitors, societies or second club members.

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PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL.

www.walmersleygolfclub.co.uk

Contact Us

secretary@walmersleygolfclub.co.uk

3 month - 5 Day Starter Membership

Ideal for novices of all ages by combining professional tuition and access to the course for just £150

New Website

Following a number of administration issues with Adtrak and England Golf our new website is now live and is now the property of Walmersley Golf Club. The web-site is accessed via - www.walmersleygolfclub.co.uk Please check it out.

Social Events

The 2019 New Years eve party held in the club house was a major success with all tickets being sold.

A quiz night will be held on Friday 8th February - everyone welcome

The first themed night of 2019 is booked for Saturday the 16th of February. Spanish food, including Tapas is being provided to celebrate Valentine's Night. At £12.50 a head, what a bargain! Please come along and enjoy.

The Ladies "Drive-In" will be held on 19th March

The Captains "Drive-In" on 23rd March and will be followed by a Bavarian evening - entertainment being provided by a highly recommended Oompah Band

House

We continue to make improvements to the club house following the refurbishment of the main lounge and the re-decorating of the dining room last year.

Costs are currently being obtained for much needed improvements to the bar, including the replacement of all pipe work from the beer cellar.

Greens

We enter 2019 feeling extremely positive about the golfing year ahead. The work that has been carried out since Brett took over as Head Greenkeeper is first class. From where we were... to where we are now is testament to the time and effort both the greens team and volunteer members have put in over the past 7 month's - brilliant work by all!

The Greens Committee have attempted to open up channels of communication with the members during the latter half of last season. This approach will continue throughout 2019 so please continue to share your ideas that will allow us to improve our course and attract new members. We have a course to be proud of so let's spread the word.

Marketing

We continue to increase revenue by hiring out the function room for celebrations including weddings, christenings and birthdays. We would be grateful if there are any members who can help promote this through their own contacts.

We are also looking to utilise the clubhouse for business meetings and presentations where catering can be provided to suit all requirements. Again we ask any members who may be able, to promote the facility within their own business/industry environment for offsite meetings.

Any members involved in Training, Recruitment and the like may also have input or suggestions that could help.

We continue to work on obtaining sponsorship for both tee markers, scorecards and the web site. For a minimal cost companies and organisations can obtain excellent exposure. Any members who feel they can help in this area should contact the secretary.

Handicaps

The lists for players to represent the club in The Manchester Alliance Competitions for this year will soon be displayed in the club house. The competitions consist of a Mixed, Seniors and Men's Foursomes competitions. If you are interested, please put your name down.

Due the first major changes to the rules of golf for a significant number of years it was felt prudent to detail at length the main areas of change

The first major change is to the way course areas are defined and members need to be fully aware of this:-

1. General Area - This is the area of the course (including all teeing locations on the course that are not the teeing area and all wrong greens) that covers all of the course except for the other four defined areas. These are:
2. The teeing area - This is the area that the player must play from in starting the hole he/she is playing.
3. Penalty area - This was formerly known as a water hazard. This is the area which relief with a one stroke penalty is allowed, if the players ball comes to rest there. These areas are still defined by the two current colours red and yellow. If any penalty area colour is not defined it is to be treated as a red penalty area.
4. Bunkers - A specially prepared area of sand, which is often a hollow from which turf or soil was removed.
5. Putting green - This is the area on the hole the player is playing that; is specially prepared for putting, or the committee has defined as the putting green (such as when a temporary green is used).

No play Zone - This is a part of the course where the committee has prohibited play. A no play zone must be defined as either an abnormal course condition or a penalty area.

Additional major rule changes-

- Dropping procedure: When taking relief (from an abnormal course condition or penalty area, for example), golfers will now drop from knee height. This will ensure consistency and simplicity in the dropping process while also preserving the randomness of the drop.
- Measuring in taking relief: The golfer's relief area will be measured by using the longest club in his/her bag (other than a putter) to measure one club-length or two club-lengths, depending on the situation, providing a consistent process for golfers to establish his/her relief area.
- Removing the penalty for a double hit: The penalty stroke for accidentally striking the ball more than once in the course of a stroke has been removed. Golfers will simply count the one stroke they made to strike the ball.
- Elimination or reduction of "ball moved" penalties: There will be no penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green or in searching for a ball; and a player is not responsible for causing a ball to move unless it is "virtually certain" that he or she did so.
- Relaxed rules for "penalty areas" (currently called "water hazards"): Red and yellow-marked penalty areas may cover areas of desert, jungle, lava rock, etc., in addition to areas of water; expanded use of red penalty areas where lateral relief is allowed; and there will be no penalty for moving loose impediments or touching the ground or water in a penalty area.

Handicaps continued

In regards to penalty areas, there was previously an option to take lateral relief on the opposite side of the red penalty area at an equal distance from the hole. This is now only allowed through the introduction of a local rule, this is currently not a local rule we are looking to introduce however members will be informed should this be introduced. affirmative encouragement of “ready golf” in stroke play; recommending that players take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke and other changes intended to help with pace of play.

Embedded Ball: Relief was previously only permitted if a players ball was embedded in a closely mown area. Relief is now allowed only when your ball is embedded in the general area (previously known as through the green). But if your ball is embedded on the putting green, you may mark the spot of your ball, lift and clean it, repair the damage, and replace your ball on its original spot.

Please note that the below is a new local rule which could potentially be introduced, we have taken the decision at this time to not introduce this as a local rule.

- **Balls Lost or Out of Bounds: Alternative to Stroke and Distance:** A new Local Rule will now be available in January 2019, permitting committees to allow golfers the option to drop the ball in the vicinity of where the ball is lost or out of bounds (including the nearest fairway area), under a two-stroke penalty. It addresses concerns raised at the club level about the negative impact on pace of play when a player is required to go back under stroke and distance. The Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite level competitions. (Key change: this is a new addition to support pace of play).
- **Relaxed bunker rules:** There will be no penalty for moving loose impediments in a bunker or for generally touching the sand with a hand or club. A limited set of restrictions (such as not grounding the club right next to the ball) is kept to preserve the challenge of playing from the sand; however, an extra relief option is added for an unplayable ball in a bunker, allowing the ball to be played from outside the bunker with a two-stroke penalty.
- **Pace-of-play support:** Reduced time for searching for a lost ball (from five minutes to three);
- **Relaxed putting green rules:** There will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole; players may putt without having the flagstick attended or removed. Players may repair spike marks and other damage made by shoes, animal damage and other damage on the putting green and there is no penalty for touching the line of a putt

Relief to be taken from wrong green: it is still the case that a player takes relief should their ball come to rest on the wrong green however, you are no longer permitted to take relief where your stance is interfered with by the wrong green. So full relief from the putting surface is now to be taken, in an expansion of this rule even if the players ball comes to rest on the fringe and their intended stance or area of intended swing is interfered with by the wrong green relief must be taken

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