

Coronavirus: Cheadle Golf Club Notice to Members

As we are all aware, the spread of the Coronavirus is now of grave concern and will have a severe and highly disruptive effect on daily life over the coming weeks. The playing of golf might be regarded as being less at risk of disruption but there is more to golf than the mere playing of the game. Playing the course is one thing; using the facilities and associating with other people is quite another. The Club, whilst far from alone or unique, faces an unprecedented challenge. The Management Board and staff of the Club are determined to ensure that the Club is well placed to meet this challenge and to offer members and visitors alike the best opportunity to continue to enjoy a round of golf and as much as possible of that which the Club has to offer during the coming weeks which are certain to be very difficult for everyone.

The health and safety of members, visitors and staff is and will remain of paramount importance. All proper measures have or will be taken by constantly ensuring that the Club follows closely and implements all advice and guidance as it becomes available from Public Health England, the R&A, the Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA), British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) and the Professional Golfers Association (PGA). Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum and to strike a proper balance between that which golfers rightly expect in normal times and that which must take precedence during the coming weeks.

It has always been the policy of the Club to maintain the highest of hygiene standards particularly in the Clubhouse. This will continue but with even greater vigour and the staff will continue to adopt best practice at all times. All possible sources of infection, such as door handles, computer screens, and other surfaces will be wiped regularly with suitable protective cleansing agents in accordance with all recommendations. Laundry is undertaken by an external agency which has assured the Club that recommended best practice will be followed at all times. The cleaner will be asked to work some extra hours partly to help with ensuring the shop is included in the need for extra attention.

Members can assist greatly in number of ways. The first, and perhaps most vital, is to follow all guidance on handwashing and other protective measures. Regular hand washing is essential, and the Club has ensured that access to appropriate handwashing facilities, including anti-bacterial sprays, will be available throughout the Clubhouse. Close physical contact with others, the most obvious of which is handshakes, is to be discouraged.

The real possibility of staff being away from work needs to be catered for. At the moment all are well but should that change the Club may need to call on volunteers to help with course maintenance catering and other duties. Members who feel that they are able to assist in any way are asked to inform the Secretary and to indicate how they feel they could contribute, if necessary.

Some tasks can only be carried out by properly qualified persons and the Greenkeeper has made arrangements for another Club to provide suitable assistance in the event either or both of the greenkeepers being absent. He has been asked to draw up a list of tasks which would need to be covered and to prioritise these so that there is a clear understanding of the likely requirements

As yet we are not aware of anyone associated with Club who is in self-isolation or is thought to have been exposed to the virus in any way. That, of course, could change in an instant and members will be advised immediately upon it becoming known that any member of staff or the volunteer administrative team has contracted the virus or gone into self-isolation.

Members are asked to ensure that the Club has an immediate and effective means of communicating with them and any change to telephone numbers or email addresses should be

notified to the Secretary without delay. If any member is aware of other members who do not have access to email, it will be very much appreciated if they could draw their attention to this message and ask the member to contact the Club Secretary so that another means of communication may be established.

Members are also asked to observe all of the government guidelines about travel and not to return to the Club until after they have followed all instructions and guidance if they have visited a country which is on the list published by the government of countries which present a significant risk. Similarly, they are asked to stay away from the Club if they have symptoms, however mild, which are said to justify keeping a distance from others.

The Club will continue to keep members informed on a regular basis. Our staff and the volunteers are working closely together and will endeavour to take all steps at the right time so as to help offset the worst effect of this unique situation and help the Club to operate as normally as possible. The course and Clubhouse are and will remain open as usual and the opportunity to play and enjoy golf will continue unless and until circumstances beyond the control of the Club and those who run it dictate otherwise.

If any member does have any suggestions, concerns or questions, they must not hesitate to approach the Chair or Secretary who will be pleased to discuss all aspects of these everchanging and highly challenging times.

Nigel Day

Chair of the Management Board