

NEW FOREST

Looking into the future we are all questioning what is to come this year. At this point we are unaware of a date for competitions to resume. Our plan for 2021 is to resume our season in conjunction with both our committees as soon as we are allowed. Both Captains, Tony Buckley and Mary Daly have put together a full year of sponsored competitions and it is our intention to give every sponsor their weekend.

As we have now had an increase in membership numbers there are naturally less tee times for visitor and society golf. However, in order to have continued investment in our facility there must be a combined income from both. To accommodate this change and higher demand for members tee times the following decision has been implemented.

There are more members tee times added for weekend competitions.

Saturday morning competition times are now 7.00am – 10.00am

Sunday morning competition times are now 7.00am – 12.00pm

The weekend timesheets for competitions have traditionally never been busy. As an existing member of New Forest, you will see the difference first-hand on a Friday evening when the following weeks tee times are opened. We will continue to open the timesheets Friday at 5.00pm for the following weekend. This will be closely monitored and amended if needed. A waiting list for weekend morning tee times will also be available for members going forward.

Our Junior Academy has grown in numbers. I am personally impressed with the level of talent that we are producing. Every Saturday over 100 juniors receive lessons here in New Forest. The junior academy is successful because we have a team of people who deserve to be mentioned. Junior Convenor; Mark Kelly, PGA Professional Brian McCormack, Members; Martin Kelly, John Lowndes and Sarah Farrell. Without the assistance of the above-mentioned names the junior academy would not be as successful as it is now. I have been meeting with this team online over the past few months putting a plan together for the season ahead. Our aim is to provide our juniors with elite coaching that will prepare them for the next step in golf, while teaching them the rules and etiquette of the game. Already we have 5 junior members selected for provincial coaching to begin in May. I hope to see our junior members gaining handicaps and competing in competitions in New Forest and beyond this year.

There is so much opportunity for our juniors to put their games to the test this year. Junior club competitions will be held every Tuesday for juniors with and without a handicap. New Forest will be entering all junior inter club competitions including Golf Sixes for the juniors with no handicap. New Forest is also hosting the Irish Junior Open series in July. I hope that our juniors will be eager to get involved and play as much golf as they can this year.

Tourism and hospitality were one of the most affected industries this past year. At this point there is an uncertainty with future government restrictions on travel and on gatherings of people. As a result of this, there are no immediate plans to open new clubhouse opposite the first tee. It is our intention to open our bar & restaurant when allowed, as we have done with each easing of restrictions. The renovation work on our new clubhouse was temporarily paused in March last year. We will resume work on this later in the year and inform our members as we approach an opening date.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I wish you and your families good health, and I hope to see plenty of golf played in 2021.

Yours

Stephen Barrett

PGA Professional

New Forest