

WELLINGBOROUGH GOLF



Club Magazine

JUNE 2020

Welcome Home!



www.wellingboroughgolfclub.com

Thanks for your tolerance and understanding

Welcome Back!

After what has seemed like a lifetime away from the club, it has been a pleasure to see virtually the entire membership back playing golf, albeit in the limited fashion of two balls with 10 minute tee times.

Mind you, this has turned out to be a luxury with three and a half hour rounds common place.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their tolerance and understanding regarding the tee time system that was put in place. On the whole it seems to have worked.

As you can see with the photo below, I am in desperate need of a haircut, which the wife is about to tackle with her horse clippers. Wish me luck.

I also seem to have taken on a 'Jim Bowen' persona in that everything this year is 'this is what you could of had!'. With so many events cancelled already - Family Fun Day, Summer Dance, Captains Day, Party in the Gardens to mention a few - this is rapidly going to become a year of wingin' it.

As lockdown measures are eased and we are finally allowed to organise social events, we do intend to run events at short notice as measures allow.

One question has been answered in recent weeks though; what will it take to get Brexit off the news? Ah, the good ole days!

All the best for now and stay safe.

Dave Hawkins

2020 Club Captain





Ok, I get the hint...
you don't want
your photo
taken,
right?!

Tap-Ins

ALMOST £12,000 has already been raised for the charity We Mind and Kelly Matters as 12 riders continue to prepare for their cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End on August 16th. Visit www.wemindandkellymatters.co.uk/kellys-heroes.

SINCE the clubhouse is currently closed, new member applications can be found by clicking the link to New Member Applications in the Policy Documents menu on the club website.

ONE of the world's leading golfers has been a new addition to Wellingborough Golf Club in recent weeks as Solheim Cup winner Charley Hull has been keeping her game in top shape on our fairways and greens. Please make Charley (pictured) feel at home, when you see her next.



ALL golfers need to be aware that, although the restrictions on social distancing have been relaxed slightly in this country in recent weeks, this does not mean that coronavirus has gone. It has not, so please be extra careful out there.

ASHLEIGH Critchley retained her NGL Ladies County Championship trophy for another year without hitting a ball after the 2020 event was cancelled due the coronavirus. The Men's event was also called off.

MEMBERS are politely reminded to repair their pitch marks on the greens. It only takes a few seconds and will benefit everyone.

THE search goes on to find the eccentric golfer who cancelled their round last month because they were upset at only two balls being allowed. Apparently, they didn't know what to do if they lost both balls?!!!

WITH pages to fill in the Wellingborough Club Magazine, there are plenty of opportunities to advertise during the year. Please contact the Club Office to get your message across to the members and visitors in 2020.

Lovely to catch up with friends on the golf course

LADIES Captain Jenny Wilkinson (pictured below) said: "I'll be honest, I didn't see it coming, golf courses being open as early as mid-May. What an absolute joy it has been!

"The golf course looks and is in great condition, the booking system and 10 minute tee times seem to be working very smoothly. Steve Mackie and his greenkeeping team really have done a fantastic job.

"We're all now just waiting to hear what Boris (Johnson) will announce next and when we will be able to re-open the clubhouse at Harrowden Hall.

"I've loved being out playing golf again, but for me it's been more about seeing faces other than my husband's and catching up with my friends.

"I am now beginning to think about how the rest of this golf season may pan out. One thing I am planning is a golf day in memory of Teena (Marshall), who passed away in April. I've provisionally booked this in for Tuesday, August 4th.

"This will give the ladies section an opportunity to remember a dear friend and raise some money to send to Cancer Research UK in memory of Teena. Let's hope for a sunny day so we can have a team golf event followed by afternoon tea on the terrace.

"Obviously a lot of events planned in this year's golf calendar have had to be cancelled, postponed or rearranged for next year. I'm hoping we'll still get some of our club competitions played.

"In the meantime, carry on enjoying playing on our stunning course at Wellingborough Golf Club."





Updated details on playing golf

Tee time format (early June):

- Monday, June 1st from 7.30am: 18 holes from first tee or 10 holes from ninth tee. Two balls only from both tees for the first hour, then up to four players permitted for the remaining tee times off the first tee only.
- Tuesday, June 2nd from 7.30am: 18 holes from first tee or 10 holes from ninth tee. Two balls only from both tees for first hour, then up to three players permitted for the remaining tee times off the first tee only.
- Wednesday, June 3rd from 7.30am: Same as Monday.
- Thursday, June 4th from 7.30am: Eight holes from first tee or 10 holes from ninth tee. For the whole day, two balls only permitted for all tee times.
- Friday, June 5th from 7.30am: Same as Monday.
- Saturday, June 6th from 7.00am: Same as Monday, except starting tee time.
- Sunday, June 7th from 7.00am: Same as Monday, except starting tee time.

With assessments being made on a regular basis, please note Coronavirus guidance could change so please keep up-to-date with the latest advice.

Key Items Of Note:

- A member may book multiple playing partners into their own chosen tee time, but no other tee times.
- Both block booking of tee times or play before the first stipulated tee times are not permitted.
- If they so wish, members may book only one, two or three names into a four ball tee time slot.
- Playing in fours is not obligatory. Similarly, playing a full 18 holes from the first tee is not mandatory, although it is preferred.
- Most importantly, the policy of not pre-booking consecutive days is to remain. Please respect this. Consistent abuse of this simple rule will leave the club with no option but to deal with accordingly.
- Members' guests are not permitted at this time - to be kept under constant review.
- WGC's membership is almost full for male members and it is likely that a waiting list may be required in the near future, so please let those know that may be considering joining.
- Applications for ladies and any junior memberships are still very welcome.
- The Club's updated COVID-19 guidelines have been e-mailed to all members.

AUDIT • TAX • ADVISORY

The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in shades of green and blue, with a wooden boardwalk leading towards the horizon in the foreground.

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Get in touch

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Now, for tomorrow



James set to pass on psychological knowhow

WELLINGBOROUGH Golf Club's members returned to the golf course last month after a long period of inactivity under coronavirus lockdown. James Whittemore is keen to get their games back in shape as quickly as possible, so we chatted with our Assistant Club Professional to find out how he will help.

What have you done during lockdown?

I've done a lot on TikTok! In all seriousness, I have done a bit of chipping in my garden to keep myself fit and I've completed an on-line university psychology course, which was good. The mental side is huge in golf.

What did that involve?

It was an eight-part course covering the mental aspect of golf and how people get around the golf course. It covered how they approach each hole, their mental status with shots in hand, pre-shot routines, visualisation and finding outcome based goals. It's stuff that I knew and had learnt in the past so it was a bit of a refresher, but there were new aspects too.

Who is it aimed at?

Golfers at any level from the very best like Ryan (Evans), Meghan (MacLaren) and Charley (Hull) to a high-handicapper - it's still the same thing. The outcome is very different, but you can still set specific targets, and try and achieve them.

Have you started using this in your lessons?

Yes, but I haven't done any playing lessons yet, which is tricky because the key is to see the players on the golf course. But the course is packed so it's not been easy to find time to play.

What coaching are you allowed to do?

Group coaching has been out, but I've been doing one-to-one coaching, abiding by the two-metre rule on the practice ground, the chipping area and the putting green. The indoor studio has also been out of action, but I'm looking to continue running the programmes I ran before.

What response have you received for lessons?

I received an influx of lesson requests at the end of May as people realised they could get out on the golf course. We obviously need to get competitions started so it gives them something to focus towards. I had a new lady start with me on May 27th and a lad over the weekend, I have another new lady next week. They are on continuous courses, so it's a good sign that they are coming for lessons.

How can a member book on a programme?

For anyone interested, there is a free assessment, when I'll get them in for 45 minutes to an hour - I will look at their swing, we will have a chat, and put together a plan for their goals for the season. Programmes start from £189, over three months. This includes coaching and on-line work, normally there would also be group sessions, but we'll have to wait and see on that.



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Crucial coronavirus decisions are made in a Zoom

THE social media video platform Zoom has become a 'friend' of Wellingborough Golf Club in recent weeks as it has been used to hold frequent meetings to organise the club's response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The COVID-19 Group, which consists of Ian Ferris (Chairman), Steve Munns (Finance Director), Chris Billson (Course Chairman), David Waite (General Manager), Dave Hawkins (Club Captain) and Jenny Wilkinson (Lady Captain), first met on March 17th.

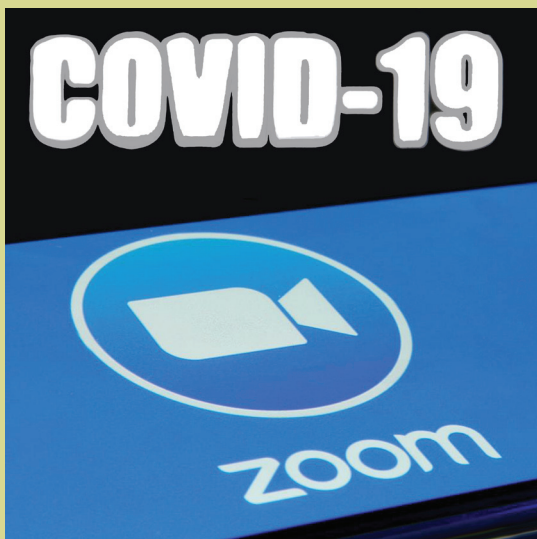
At that stage, it was decided that Wellingborough had little option but to shut the clubhouse, which was soon followed by a directive on March 23rd from governing body England Golf to close the golf course.

Since then the COVID-19 Group have continued to meet on Zoom at least once every week as they take in the latest information from the Government and England Golf.

Waite said: "We'd never used Zoom before, but it has been helpful for the Group to discuss and work on a wide range of topics ranging from furloughing staff, maintaining the golf course in the best condition possible during lockdown and then getting everybody back to playing golf again.

"In recent days, there has been a further relaxation on the number of golfers per group which gives us the opportunity to take the pressure off the booking system. Once permitted, we are looking forward to hopefully initiating a return to providing a bar and food service at the Club.

"We'd like to thank everybody for their patience and understanding through this trying time and we look forward to a safe return to 'normality' in the fullness of time."



'Chilled out' Ryan ready for competitive return

EUROPEAN Challenge Tour professional Ryan Evans (pictured) has relished the unexpected opportunity to spend a long period of time at home for the first time in a decade.

The 33-year-old, who married long term girlfriend Toni in December last year, says the coronavirus lockdown has provided a good chance to recharge the batteries but admits he is now itching to get back out on Tour playing competitive golf once again.

The Wellingborough pro said: "It was nice to spend a couple of months at home, because I've played golf competitively for 10 years or so, when I'm away for probably 30 weeks each year.

"I saw it as a time to chill out, spend some time with my wife and do the house up a bit. It was good to be at home, but I'm itching to get out there playing now.

"My practice during lockdown was limited to hitting balls into a bed sheet in the back garden and I also have a putting green, so I did a lot of practise there. Now I'm just practicing on the course.

"I don't know when tournaments are going to start. We are scheduled to start in mid-July but it is all dependent on travel, can we go into these countries? Then, do we have to quarantine? And promoters and sponsors might pull out.

"So I'm just going to have to practice and play most days, in case they turn around and say 'right, we're going'.

"I can't switch to domestic events purely because there aren't any in this country.

"I know the European Tour has set up some tournaments in a 'UK Swing', but I have no idea if that involves me because that is the European Tour.

"So unless the Challenge Tour try and get five or six events in this country, and then get everyone over here, which would be great, there is nothing to play at present.

"The guys who had cards on the EuroPro had the whole schedule cancelled, so we would be quite fortunate if we get between five and 10 events this year.

"We are all in the same boat - we just don't know. We need to get ourselves mentally and physically ready."



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In Our Shoes, by Wellingborough LET Pro Meghan MacLaren

PLEASE please bear with me, because I'm more tired than anyone of the supply and demand argument when it comes to gender equality in golf.

This isn't a woke millennial take on having every possible demographic equally represented at the highest level. I can't speak for others and how they feel or are valued, I don't have that experience. But I have experience of how it can feel to be a female in this world. That's the point that keeps getting missed. Ultimately, it's just about respect. That's all.

If I told you the number one player in the world broke a nearly 20 year old record held by Tiger Woods when she went 114 consecutive holes without a bogey, would you be impressed?

If I told you a rookie had a win, more top 10s and more runner up finishes than Robert McIntyre last year, would you be able to name her?

If I told you someone gained their first professional victory in 119 attempts, would you be inspired?

If I told you the 2019 leading PGA Tour player in GIR averaged 73.06%... and 27 LPGA players averaged higher than that, what would you say? Would you tell me the courses are shorter so it's irrelevant? Would you tell me they probably falsified their data, as one male tour pro insinuated the last time I tweeted about GIR stats?

Have you ever thought about how opportunity creates opportunity, or how success breeds success, or how talent pushes talent? How many elite female golfers do we miss out on because they can't see their worth? Can't see a role model in the magazine they pick up, because out of almost 200 pictures in a leading publication there isn't one of a woman? Can't see a role model on the first five pages of the golf section on a national news site because it appears women's tours don't exist?

Time after time, through complete silence, we're told that our abilities and achievements as golfers simply don't matter to the average golf fan. That they are less important, because they weren't achieved by a man. Can you begin to understand how that feels?

And if we dare to point that out, we are told that the interest just isn't there. That we don't engage, don't entertain, aren't worthy of your time in the way that men are. Why? Because our skills aren't as great? Really?

Men's sport dominates primarily because in the beginning and ever since, people with power (...men) chose to invest in it.

Yet as fans of golf, like me, you're probably impressed by the achievements listed above. The individuals concerned would command your respect, if you knew about them. If you've got this far in my post you probably already do.

I know times are changing- I'm lucky to be in an era where we can even discuss this. And I f***ing love getting to do what I do for a living... but it's 2020 and just look at some of the comments.

I'm not demanding you become a fan of women's golf. Each to their own, genuinely. But everyone needs to recognise that our choice to be a fan is shaped by the way the world works. Not necessarily by us.

Read our Ladies European Tour pro's regular blog at <https://megmaclaren.com/author/megmaclaren/>





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GOLF CLUB

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Full Set with... Theo Brown

IN the latest of a series of Q&A features with various members of the Club personnel over the coming months, Wellingborough Golf Club Magazine chatted with our 2020 Junior Club Captain - a single figure handicap golfer whose ideal career choice is out of this world.

D

What is your full title?

Wellingborough Golf Club Junior Captain 2020.

R

Family status?

Son of Rob and Ziggy, and older brother of Luca.

3

What is your golf handicap?

2.

4

My perfect fourball would be?

Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Ian Poulter and myself.

5

What has been the best advice you have ever received?

Try the best you can, so that when you look back you can't say 'I wish I could have tried harder'.

6

What are the best and worst parts of your game?

The best is the chipping because I practice that the most, and the worst is the mental game because I get quite angry and carried away with myself at times.

7

What is the best TV show or film you have seen?

For the TV show it would be Friends, and the best film would be Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith.

8

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

Winning the NGL Junior Order of Merit.

9

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?

I'd buy a new set of custom-fit golf clubs.

P

If you could go anywhere right now, where would it be?

The Caribbean, Mali or Hawaii... I'd go to Hawaii!

W

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to read. It prepares me for the future, in terms of university and college.

L

What is your perfect career choice?

Professional golfer is the obvious answer, but if I was to go for anything else it would be an astronaut.

S

What would you change about yourself?

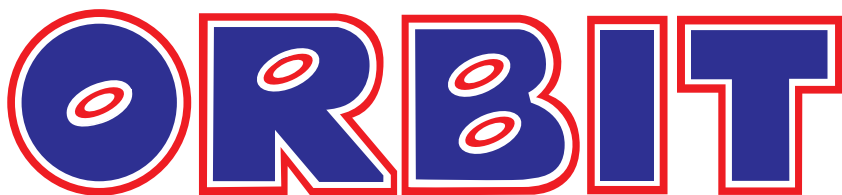
I wish I was more forward thinking.

P

What is the funniest thing you have ever seen on a golf course?

I was playing the seventh hole at Kettering with my brother when he shanked his tee shot straight at my dad. We were crying with laughter. Sorry dad, but it was funny!





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New restrictions assisted our greenkeepers

HEAD Greenkeeper Steve Mackie says the initial COVID-19 rules helped his team keep the Wellingborough course in superb condition following the resumption of play last month.

Although a number of the Harrowden Hall greenkeeping staff remain off work on the furlough scheme, Mackie believes the larger gaps between tee times and smaller group sizes has enabled the rest of the team to keep on top of the workload.

He said: "It was good to see the golfers back out there, but when it was just us greenkeepers out there, we could do what we wanted, where we wanted and when we wanted.

"So we've needed to adapt to fitting back in with the golfers. Having said that, the longer 10-minute intervals, and the fact they were two balls, has helped us find opportunities - everyone we have spoken to loves this.

"It's still packed out there on the course, but when you have a four ball, following a four ball, following a four ball, the golf slows down, so normally there aren't too many gaps for us to work.

"The course opening announcement didn't really make too much difference to us because we were doing everything as normal anyway.

"We were planning for when we needed to take the flag poles out and arrange pin placement charts, so it was no major problem.

"We did do an over-seed on the greens, which we sneaked into the time delay before the return, but that only took us three days.

"The course was open within a week so it just worked out with the timings that the greens were a little bit bumpy to start off with, but they are fine now. We could perhaps do with a little rain, mind you!"



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