



Knighton Heath Golf Club

Dear Members

I must start by yet again apologising for the way the subscription figures have been released to you, this was not our intention. The process by which Manco communicates with the membership has again failed, it is something we have been trying to improve and obviously requires more work.

We are finally emerging from the lockdown and for those of you that have been able to play will see, the course work has continued right through the lockdown. The green keepers have been busy and although all the projects have not been completed, hopefully you can visualize how it will look once the work is finished.

I stated last year, we hoped that Manco would be in a position to give the membership some form of rebate, for the loss of playing during the first lockdown. Little did we know what was to come!

We started with freezing the subscriptions and then offering the 50% payment scheme, both aimed at helping the members through what we thought was a one off!

The club has managed to continue operating throughout and we are grateful to the membership for paying their subscriptions on time. This in turn has enabled us to continue the work on the course and to retain the staff through the furlough scheme and we are looking forward to their return next month.

Even with all the work carried out, Manco is still able to offer a £50 credit, applied to each full member's bar card at the end of July 2021. The credit will be apportioned by a fixed percentage to all the other membership categories. This with the freeze of subscriptions last year equates to a real saving, which we hope the membership will appreciate.

Manco has also taken the decision to push ahead with the borehole project, this will in turn give Knighton Heath GC the opportunity to reduce the water rate bill for watering the course. There has obviously been a cost, and this has been covered by the government Bounce Back Loan (BBL) at a low interest rate. This is the beginning of a path that will eventually lead to the badly needed replacement of our irrigation system, the project will be tabled at a special EGM in due course.

Most of you will not have seen the new chairs in the lounge and the moveable partition that has been completed by using available grants which, the General Manager has been able to access along with other avenues for revenue.

My personal thanks go to General Manager Reunert Bauser for all the work he has continued to do throughout the lockdown, which has resulted in Knighton Heath GC being able to weather the ever-changing situation put out by Government during the period.

My thanks also go to our Financial Director Des Spencer who has helped Reunert to oversee our expenditure during the same period. This has kept our spending down as much as possible.

Knighton Heath GC continues to attract new members and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome them to the club.

Knighton Heath GC continues with the projects on the golf course and in the club house, projects that will move the golf club forward and which will enhance the experience felt by both members and visitors alike. This work comes with a cost but again it is one that we feel is worth it, we are planning for the future of the club and really need the membership to support us on that journey.

My thanks go to Alan and his team for all the hard work that they have put in to maintain the course to a level that we the members expect. Now if it rains then the seeding schedule will prove worthwhile. I would also like to thank the members that have been able to help on the course in preparation for the reopening.

The problem of leather jackets continues to plague all courses with many coming up with inventive ways to remove them. Let me assure you that we too are looking at ways to remove them from our course.

Finally, Manco has discussed and reluctantly agreed to an increase of 7,5% to the full member subscription rate i.e., £1.67 per week). This will be apportioned according to the fixed percentage applicable to each of the other category, as done in previous years. The decision was not taken lightly but is in response to the world that surrounds the golf club and the running costs that go up every year. We know that not all members will appreciate the increase, but we hope the membership will understand the reasoning.

I know that we live in uncertain times, but I like others look forward to an exciting future for Knighton Heath GC it remains one of the best courses in Dorset and I for one am proud to be a member.

As I said at the start, I personally apologise for the way this year's subscriptions have been delivered to the membership, it was not the way we intended.

In closing I would like on behalf of Manco to wish all members and their families good health and a safe year.

Jim Airth

Jim Airth
Chairman

26 April 2021