

Dear Members,

I hope this note finds you and your loved ones in good health, and that you are coping well through these extraordinary times. As I write, someone smiles from above to maintain our period of exceptional weather which helps maintain some sanity but ultimately turns our minds to our favourite sport. It looks like the situation has improved enough to allow us back on the course soon and we can catch up with our friends, albeit at a safe distance.

Alan Lawson and the course management team have continued to use the downtime to carry out some essential maintenance on the course, completing the work to clear out the ponds on 6th, 8th and 9th holes, improving the drainage around those areas. The copse and culvert next to 8th tee have been removed and replaced with permanent drainage. New landscaping protects the tee from those playing into 7 and helps with the aesthetics of the area. General maintenance of the course has continued with cutting on all areas and, barring some minor vandalism to one of the flower boxes during April, the course looks in great shape.

We continue to follow advice from government and England Golf on reopening of the course and facilities which looks likely to come in phases depending on the national COVID-19 situation. In preparation, England Golf have released a framework of guidance documents with a “Play Safe, Stay Safe” strapline reminding us that when the lockdown is eased sufficiently, we all have a responsibility to protect ourselves and others on the course. Those interested can find the suite of documents [here](#). Your committee have reviewed the material and prepared a guidance document to inform you of the measures we have taken on and around the course, and some of the changes to all of our habits and playing discipline to help us stay safe. Please read the guidance to keep yourselves up to speed with arrangements, we will inform you of any changes as we monitor the practicalities when we return.

Finally, some light has appeared at the end of the tunnel recently and Boris Johnson has announced some minor easing of measures and I hope these continue in the right direction to take us back to competition golf. Keep an eye out for club announcements on social media and in your email inbox.

Stay well,

David Jones
Chairman
Whitehaven Golf Club