

Dear Club Members

With our belated 2020 golf season still in full swing, new government laws regarding the control of COVID-19, and with autumn steadily approaching, I wanted to drop you a line to ensure you are as informed as possible. In what has been a year of a continuous flow of messages, many may feel a sense of communication overload. However, I think it important to take a moment to ensure you understand what the latest government legislation means for the Club and also to recap on some of the most important items for our Club Members, so that we can look forward with purpose.

CLUB SAFETY & COMMUNITY

COVID-19 has without a doubt tested us all and continues to do so. The latest changes to legislation are:

From Monday 14 September, it will no longer be legal to meet socially in groups of more than 6, unless they are in a household (and support bubble) of more than 6 people. This will apply indoors and outdoors, including in private homes and hospitality settings like the pub. There will be a limited number of exemptions.

This measure replaces both the existing ban on gatherings of more than 30 and the current guidance on allowing two households to meet indoors.

I can confirm that our facility is already set up to accommodate this change in legislation and we have measures in place for golf arrivals, the Pro Shop, playing golf and refreshments served inside and outside at The Waterside. If you would like to refresh your knowledge of these measures, please click on these links below for golf and hospitality safety measures.

I am so proud of our club community, reactions to the pandemic from both members and staff have been very positive and together we have been able to keep Hever Castle Golf Club one of the safest places to be visiting. Actions such as wearing masks within the clubhouse public areas, using the sanitizers provided on each entrance, keeping a safe distance from different households at all times, planning golf ahead with friends and helping to provide a positive atmosphere for all the HCGC community, are all things we have and must continue to make a priority when at the club.

Links:

[England Golf Statement](#)

[Hospitality Statement & Guidelines](#)

[Golf Statement & Guidelines](#)

MEMBERS GOLF

As with so many leisure and hospitality businesses, this has been a considerably taxing time. We continue to work to regain strength in our club revenues but have sought to do so in a fashion that does not compromise our loyal membership and the high standards we have worked hard on establishing. Although roll ups cannot take place, there are several measures we have implemented including:

- Members' only times (7am till 9am midweek and 7am till 12am weekends)
- Advanced priority booking
- Premium memberships
- Cancelling golf days to preserve greater availability for members
- Increasing green fee tariffs for casual visitors

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Our owners have been very supportive, authorizing work on the new men's' changing rooms and ladies' WC's and allowing significant sums to be spent on the courses during lockdown and beyond, within the permitted maintenance guidelines.

Hever Castle Golf Club's intentions and aspirations have not changed, and we aim for the club to continue to be considered one of the best in the South East. The work on the golf courses will always be our main emphasis. The investments in recent years into business letting and more extensive clubhouse facilities for hospitality and wellbeing, are all designed to generate investment capital which can enhance the golf courses, while of course, aiming to balance the books. Preserving green quality and repairs to the fairways from the dreaded crane fly larvae is our current priority.

In summary, we of course do not know what the months ahead have in store for us. However, I am certain of one thing, we are giving the club the best chance of success to continue to foster our sense of community, by helping our captains and committees deliver active/fun golfing sections and doing all we can to keep the club a safe and welcoming place to visit.

I wish you all the very best for this autumn season and will aim to keep you all up to date with any important changes to our 'new normal'.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wittenberg

Club Manager