

HARRINGTON WATERS GOLF CLUB INC.

PREFERRED LIES NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome to the first edition of this newsletter for the current year and the recently elected Board. Firstly many thanks to Bob Baxter for doing this newsletter in the past and enjoy your travels over the coming months, in addition I would like to outline the scope and intent of this newsletter:

- The content of this letter is directed towards the general golfing members
- It will be designed to be informative, educational and lighthearted
- It is not a Board letter although anything deemed relevant to golfers will be incorporated, explained and relayed for your information
- It is intended that the frequency will be every 2nd month

As your newly elected Vice Captain one of my goals is to run brief, fun, yet educational rules sessions at the club. There are hundreds of official Rules of Golf, however most of these are scenario based and clarity of interpretation. The average club golfer can effectively and fairly play golf knowing about 20 rules and some of these are in fact etiquette not tabulated rules and most of them occur as a result of handling your ball whilst in play ie; taking relief. You will note that I used the word fairly, golf is one of a rare sport where apart from your marker you are the referee of your game and as such it is your responsibility to ensure that what occurs during your game is fair and just to all your fellow competitors, at the end of each newsletter I will include a "rule" for your information and keep an eye out for one of the rules sessions coming up.

The 2022 program and fixtures book has just been completed it will be distributed on line soon, the club is still evaluating the costs v's benefits for getting it hard copy published, you will be able to print it out yourself, if you cant please contact the club, but I know most of the members are tech savvy and will handle this. There is some good informative reading in the book please take a few moments to review. Its also never too late to sponsor an event let us know if your interested.

Men's 2022 Pennants has commenced, we have 3 teams comprising divisions 2, 3 & 4, my thanks to the division 3 & 4 Captains Gary Bennett and Mick Ayton who have got their teams together and coordinating the communications to enable play, this season runs until end of March – Good luck to all.

Our Course is in great condition at the moment thanks to our Superintendent Mark and his team and of course our diligent and hard working team of volunteers coordinated by Greg Moylan. It is absolutely imperative that Greg coordinates **ALL** volunteer works being done on the course, Greg liaises with the Superintendent on all works and these lines of communication need to be maintained. It is also mandatory that before you commence any work on the course you sign the register kept outside the pro shop. If an accident or incident happens this register is the first step in ensuring indemnity for the Club and enables insurances to be enacted if required. The alternative is not Pretty.

Carts are a necessity in our club as we have many members who are unable to walk the course, notwithstanding this because we are basically a nine fairway course the load is doubled, in addition couch grass although hardy doesn't handle load wear as well as some other grasses, so what do we do to preserve this:

- Share your rides two per cart two carts per group
- Don't drive like Lemmings dare not to drive in the wheel tracks of the cart in front of you, if the course is not wet drive to an area that is low wear, a good example is the third tee be daring try a different approach and exit, the grass will appreciate your efforts
- Our teams have installed blue lines around the greens which are No Cart zones, these apply to the general members and of course social players. There are exemptions and I use these with the greatest of respect Owen Haynes and Russel Palmer both who enjoy golf and the comradery that goes with it but are limited in their ability to walk distances that most of us take for granted, you and others in this category ARE granted exemption to cross boundaries, of course with care. If anyone in this category wishes permission to do this in order to play, please contact Peter Budden or Myself, we will be arranging stickers for your carts which are clearly visible and grant you conditional permission to do this.

Recently a motion was rescinded which restricted Bronze category members from representing the club in pennants or participating in Club Championships, effective immediately Bronze class members now have the same members rights to participate in these events.

The Board has undertaken its right under the lease agreement of the downstairs are not to renew same and recover this space for the use of the club and its members for increased storage including members carts. Further information will be released as the course of this action evolves

The club has a specific area for the temporary storage of green refuse as a result of course maintenance which it then pays a fee for disposal. This is NOT a repository for members household green waste please don't use this area for household disposal.

Here's a point to remember, the clubhouse and all the clubs facilities including the course, café, pro shop etc are subject to respectful members and guests behaviour. Disrespect to fellow members, club employees will not be tolerated, members and guests breaching these standards will be disciplined accordingly

TRUE STORY

One of our members recently told me that his wife had been telling him that he was becoming completely obsessed with his golf and had recently come onto the course and yelled at him on the 4th green which he said scared the living daylights out of him because you don't come across too many people at 2 AM on the course

RULE OF THE MONTH

Taking relief from a red staked (lateral) penalty area once you have either deemed your ball unplayable or lost, to determine a ball lost you and your marker must be sure the ball crossed the penalty line.

The rule states:

The player must deem the point in conjunction with their Marker at which the ball crossed the line of the Penalty area (no longer called hazards) not where you might find your ball. That point is marked and then two (2) club lengths (not leg lengths or paces) no longer than a driver is to be marked, no nearer to the hole. The relief ball is then dropped from knee height within the 2 club length distance. Providing the ball does not move closer to the target the ball is in play. If the ball moves closer to the target when dropped that action must be repeated, If this happens after a second drop the point where the ball contacted is identified and the ball is placed there, the ball is then in play and the Player incurs a 1 shot penalty

The other option is you can take a point where you crossed and go back as far as you like keeping that point between you and the target. Given the lateral hazards at our course that would mean you are on a parallel fairway which is usually not practical.

Happy Golfing Chris Gilbert

PS if you have something to share please let me know