



NORMY NEWS

August 2020

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Thrilling Club Championship

Yesterday saw a thrilling finale to the 2020 Club Championship. Nearly 30 of our best golfers battled it out over 2 days of good weather to end up with 3 players tied on 148. The dual in the sun proceeded to be played out over 2 holes playing the first and 18th holes, with a large crowd following and watching as the excitement grew. After the 2 holes were played Sam Marsh was eliminated but Des Lawson and Will Smith continued having to replay the 2 holes again. However, they still couldn't be split after 4 extra holes and so both players agreed to keep playing the 10th hole until a winner could be found. On playing it for the first time however with a fairly strong head wind Des found himself facing a long put down the green, whereas Will had hit a splendid tee shot not that far from the pin. Des missed his putts and Will was down for 3 to claim the 2020 Club Championship on his first time of entry. Well done Will, commiserations to Des and thanks to all participants who battled it out. Better luck next year.

Members Concerns

The Directors have identified a worrying trend recently as they are receiving lots of email communication of late from particularly long standing members who are expressing grave concerns regarding an apparent dropping of standards and behaviour at the Club. What is worrying is that besides the usual complaints about visiting parties (dress code, speed of play, not repairing pitch marks, etc.) the main area for complaining is about the behaviour of other existing members at the Club, where some members seem to be oblivious or in total disregard to long held club rules or acceptable golfing etiquette. Some of the recent complaints relate to;

- Totally inappropriate dress code - caps on backwards, t-shirts outside of trousers, cargo shorts, etc, etc.
- Members or their relatives speeding dangerously up/down the drive and in the car park.
- Members been aggressive towards other members when approached about lack of golfing etiquette.
- Lack of warning on wayward shots, e.g. not shouting "Fore"
- Members/guests smoking inappropriate substances in the outside bar area
- Loud swearing at the outside areas when having a drink
- Members still loitering at the HWH when the 10th Green is clear with groups behind having to wait for the HWH to clear.

- Members “firing through” the group in front instead of waiting for them to get out of reach/range
- Members not cancelling tee times when booked on, taking valuable spots particularly on weekend mornings

The list goes on and on and it is of obvious concern to the many members who abide by the club rules, display proper golf etiquette and act in a reasonable and respectful manner. We are not a snobby or posh Golf Club and we want members and their guests to enjoy their experience and feel at ease and comfortable when relaxing at the club but we do expect decent standards of behaviour, dress code, etc. Any future reports of inappropriate behaviour will therefore be acted upon as appropriate. In an effort to clamp down on unacceptable behaviour, the Directors are asking any members with time to spare if they would like to be considered to act as a starter/course marshal in a voluntary position. If interested please contact the Directors through the office for further details.

As regards on-course etiquette, the Greens Committee have reviewed the best tips and videos currently available, New and juniors golfers may benefit, seasoned and older golfers will definitely re-learn a thing or two. This youtube clip sums up what you should be doing, COVID-19 safe golf principals will slightly amend the advice, but in normal times the video is spot on and is worth a watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYY2OIAiFGQ>

For those who may not be able to use the link, or don't have the time to watch the videos – for your benefit we have condensed the most relevant tips to the **5 good habits**:

Greens: Always repair YOUR pitch mark in the correct way, and at least one other if you can. Keep buggies and trolleys away from the edges, park where your walking off.

Fairways: Replace YOUR divot immediately if able, fill any other divots with sand using a permanently adopted sandbag. Rake or smooth all footprints in bunkers after your shot using a personal rake or your club head.

T Box: Do not replace divots, fill with sand if carried or provided, park near the lowest point of the Tee box then walk back to the Tee, reducing wear to the banks.

Course: Put all YOUR rubbish in a waste bin, pick up rubbish where you see it, keep the noise of the group to a minimum, especially near other golfers.

Tracks and paths: Use them where able to reduce wear, keep your equipment on them as much as possible, especially around the greens.

Course Update

The course continues to attract both criticism and praise equally from members, with some members expressing their dissatisfaction with the current condition of the course, whilst other members communicate their satisfaction and pleasure in how well the course is playing and its existing standard. It shows how hard it is to prepare the course to please everyone with golfers having different views and expectations of how the course should be maintained/prepared. E.g. some want the fairways shorter thinking it's too long with others happy with the current length believing it was far too short in the past. The same goes for the length of the semi and the rough parts of the course. No course is perfect and we are aware there is still much to do out on the course, however now we are finally back to full strength greens staff wise, the extra 2 personnel should make an impact with members hopefully seeing a difference and gradual further improvement in the coming weeks.

Ladies 'Fun Day' 7th July 2020

The ladies held their first fun day recently to introduce our new lady members. It's a shame the weather put the dampers on it, (literally). They had an eighteen hole Texas Scramble, then sat and had their picnic, not under parasols but umbrellas! The winners with a score of 66 were: Julie Stead, Jenny Graf and one of our junior girls, Jocelyn Deary. Everyone enjoyed themselves and despite the rain all day it was a really good turnout, nearly all of the lady members attended.



Junior Section & Organiser role

The Juniors recently held their Junior Club Championship which was won by the Junior Captain, Oliver Roberts. Well done Oliver! Normanton are now developing some potentially really good golfers for the years ahead. If you see or meet them out on the course please give them every encouragement as they are the club's future.



The Section is holding a "Fun Day" on Thursday where young golfers will have a full day enjoying themselves with things such as target golf on the practice field, ending up with a fish and chips meal. The next event after this is the friendly fixture against Oulton GC Juniors, This will be the first match for the Juniors in a season that promised so much prior to the COVID19 outbreak where we were accepted back into the L&D Junior League after an 8 year gap.

Dave Hartley has due to work commitments reluctantly had to relinquish his role as junior organiser. This clearly leaves an important role within the Club to be filled. The Club are therefore asking for any keen members who are interested in becoming involved and playing a key role helping Gary with Junior development at the club to get in touch either with Gary or the office to register their interest. For more information as to what is involved please see Gary or Richard Carter. The Directors would like to place on record their appreciation of all the hard work and personal sacrifice that Dave has put into the role in recent years. Many thanks Dave!

Volunteers required for 2 prestige events

NGC will be hosting 2 prestigious events at our course over the coming weeks. These are; the L&D scratch & nett strokeplay championship on Thursday 20th August and the PGA Members Tour event held on Thursday 10th September. To help with the smooth running of these events we are asking if any NGC member would like to volunteer their time on any (or both) these days either as, ball spotters, or raking bunkers or any other duties that helps with the smooth running of the events. If you are interested then please contact either Gary in the Pro shop, or Sharon in the Office or Rich Carter (Golf Director). It is an honour that NGC are chosen as the venue for these prestige events and reflects our growing standing as a Golf Club in the region.

Damage from Golf Balls

Members need to be aware of the procedure to follow when one of their golf balls causes any damage/injury to property or person. We receive quite frequent reports from houses on Aberford Road (when playing the 8th) or the Bungalows adjacent to the 7th hole regarding property damage from wayward golf balls. If you are aware that your golf ball has caused some damage to property could you please report it to the office (or pro shop on weekends) on the completion of your round as we need full details in order to claim from our insurers. Without the necessary details our insurance company will not cover any claim made against us.

New Member welcome night

Normally when people join NGC they are given a 75 minute induction to the club and given a members handbook taking them through all the procedures and processes they need to be familiar with to help with their smooth induction. Information needs vary as new members can range from; seasoned golfers who have been members of a golf club before and have played the game for many years to people who have just taken up the game recently and never been a member of a golf club before. As COVID19 prevented the normal induction from happening we are arranging a series of "new member evenings" where we will invite all those new members who have joined since 23rd March to a series of informative sessions in the Hatfeild Suite which will include golfing tips from the pro as Gary will be in attendance. So please look out for the letter you will be receiving shortly as your invite.

*Please Note; As 7 Day membership is now closed we have removed the £50 bar credit that applied to existing members when introducing a new member.

Play Safe, Stay Safe'

*Anyone with any news items for future letters, please contact Richard thro the office at office@normantongolf.co.uk