

# Return to Golf Plan

## Introduction

Firstly, thank you for the patience and understanding that you have shown during the period that Temple has been closed as a result of the COVID19 lockdown.

We have now been given the green light for golf to recommence on a “**Golf and Go**” basis, minimising points of contact and reducing the possibility of ad hoc gatherings occurring by accident.

Initially, demand from members desperate to get out onto the course will be high and we will implement measures to try and ensure everyone has the opportunity to play safely in line with England Golf’s “**Play Safe Stay Safe**” framework. This Return to Golf plan has been compiled following consultation with the relevant golfing bodies and is in accordance with the latest government advice. The plan will be constantly reviewed and updated, often at short notice, in line with changing advice and experience.

## Caveat Emptor

Please note that when you return to Temple you will need to be as self-contained as possible:

- there will be no food and beverage operation available in the Clubhouse until we are allowed to open the Bar and Kitchen. Therefore, the doors into the Bar from the corridor will remain locked. However, we will experiment with a mobile drinks and snacks service with purchases chargeable to your Bar Purse.
- there will be a phased unfurloughing of greenkeepers and a gradual return to normal cutting heights, course presentation and playability.
- for obvious reasons we will not be able to assist with recovering members from the golf course for whatever reason. Please carry your mobile phone at all times and if you become ill, call 111 or 999 based on the severity of your illness. Once you have called for help then let us know by calling the Pro Shop on 01628 824254 or the Office on 01628 824795.

Most importantly, please be aware that the Club does not possess any form of liability cover relating to COVID19. If you feel at all uncomfortable about returning to the Club to play golf, then please think twice.

## Booking

We will continue to use BRS for tee bookings with tee times bookable **7** days in advance at **6PM**. Initially, tee times will be for members only and it will only be possible to play golf with a pre-booked tee time. **It is not possible to tee-off before 7AM or after 8PM.**

In the interests of fairness please play no more than twice a week and not on consecutive days.

When you book a tee-time on BRS you are certifying that to the best of your knowledge:

- you are not displaying symptoms of COVID 19
- you are not in self-isolation
- you have not been in close proximity to somebody who has displayed symptoms of COVID 19 within the past 14 days

In order to create the safest possible environment, we will initially only offer social golf from Yellow and Red tees for members only with no guests or visitors permitted. Play will be in two-balls and all rounds of golf must start from the 1<sup>st</sup> tee. There will be no roll-ups nor competitions.

We want to allow as many members as possible to access the course within the government guidelines we are working to. You will be able to book a tee time for you and your playing partner who must also be a member, or you can sign-up as an individual with the expectation of another member signing up alongside you. If it is absolutely necessary that you play as a singleton, you may add the word “guest” to the second slot in order to prevent others signing up alongside you. With the exception of one non-playing parent accompanying a junior member, or one non-playing partner accompanying a member playing on their own, caddies/spectators are not permitted.

The first available tee time will be 7AM and the last tee time 8PM with ten-minute intervals between times and you will be able to reserve a time for you and your playing partner. Please do not come to the Club to play golf if you do not have a booked tee time.

For those of you who do not have access to BRS, a few tee times will be reserved for telephone booking via the Pro Shop. If any of these times remain free on the day of play, they can then be booked by any member who does not already have a tee-time for that day.

If you are not working, then consider avoiding weekends.

Junior members with CONGU handicaps of 36 or better must be accompanied by an adult – either an adult member or one non-golfing parent.

Junior members with handicaps of 37 and above may only book tee times after 3PM on any day of the week and must be accompanied by an adult – either an adult member or one non-golfing parent.

## **Before Golf**

Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes before your tee time and try to avoid parking next to your playing partner.

Please change your shoes in the car park and follow social distancing restrictions, staying 2m apart from people outside of your household, at all times while at the Club.

The ladies’ and gent’s toilets in the clubhouse will be open but maintain social distancing when entering and exiting the changing rooms and wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds before leaving the changing rooms. Please leave the toilets in a clean condition for the next user.

You are strongly advised to bring your own supply of hand sanitiser with you.

10 minutes before your tee time, you must check-in at the Pro Shop. Please approach the Pro Shop via the sloped pathway and leave via the steps. Only one customer in the Pro Shop at any one time please. If you prefer not to enter the Pro Shop, you can check-in from the door.

The Pro Shop team will be provided with PPE and work from behind a protective screen.

Hand sanitiser will be provided at the counter.

The Pro Shop will only be able to accept debit/credit card or account transactions. No cash please.

The Putting Green will be open. A maximum of 4 players may use the Putting Green at any one time keeping a minimum of 2m apart and with priority given to the those next on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee. There will not be any holes on the putting green, but we will put out some form of targets.

Before your round, you may use the Practice Net but one at a time please.

Buggies may be booked but only one person to a buggy unless co-riders are from the same household. Steering wheels, bag straps and grab handles will be sanitised before and after use. Buggies may only be booked for tee times between 7.30AM and 5.30PM.

## **Golf**

Do not walk to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee until the group ahead has departed. This protocol should be followed throughout your round.

No scorecards will be provided.

Keep in position on the course. With play in two-balls at 10-minute intervals, it should be straightforward to keep regular spacing.

Only touch your own golf equipment.

Maintain social distancing when searching for a ball.

Flagsticks are to remain in the hole at all times and should not be touched.

We are awaiting supply of a set of golf ball lifts which will facilitate contactless ball retrieval. In the interim, hole cups will be inverted for easy retrieval and will be sanitised as part of the daily course set up.

If you are in doubt about the location of your golf ball please play a provisional ball. In the event of losing a ball, do not go back to play another ball. Keep your position on the course.

Bunker rakes have been removed so please use your foot or a golf club to smooth sand after play.

Rubbish bins, ball washers and movable benches have been removed from the course. Please take any rubbish home with you.

Unless you are playing with somebody from your household, do not share food and drink on the course.

The on-course toilets at the 10<sup>th</sup> tee are closed and off limits.

During your round, please collect your own broken tee pegs and take them home with you for disposal.

## After Golf

No handshakes or high fives etc at the end of your round.

When you have finished your round, walk to your car, change your shoes, pack away your equipment and depart for home avoiding any congregation.

The compressed air shoe cleaner adjacent to the Pro Shop is out of use.

If you do need to use the toilet facilities in the clubhouse you may do so but maintain social distancing, leave the toilets in a clean condition for the next user and observe the COVID19 hand washing routine.

If after visiting the Club you find that you are displaying any COVID19 symptoms, then, if possible, please contact the Club ASAP.

## Other Aspects

If you currently use the **Trolley Store** please remove your clubs and trolley as soon as possible after the Club has reopened and store them at home.

As previously mentioned, the **Bar** and **Restaurant** will remain closed for the foreseeable future. However, we are going experiment with a mobile grab and go service for drinks and snacks if it is cost effective.

The **Office** will be manned as normal observing safe working practices and social distancing during working hours. If face to face communications are absolutely necessary, please use the door into Keith's office as opposed to the back door into the kitchen.

The **Practice Ground** and **Academy Green** are open with a maximum of two members using each facility at any one time whilst strictly observing social distancing. Please use your own clearly marked golf balls and keep practice sessions to a maximum of 30 minutes if somebody is waiting. When using the Practice Ground, please hit golf balls in one direction only from the 13<sup>th</sup> tee end of the Practice Ground towards the large horse chestnut tree. If you arrive at the Practice Ground or Academy Green and there are already two members practicing, please remain in your car, or at a safe distance if on foot, until there is a slot available. If this does not work, we will introduce a booking system via the Pro Shop.

## Finally

During these strange times, the safety of members and employees is even more paramount at all times and this document has been implemented to ensure the safest possible environment.

For now, enjoy some social golf at Temple whilst strictly observing social distancing rules.

## Play Safe and Stay Safe.