

C.C.C. UPDATE - APRIL 2020

Firstly, a very big thank you to all who have kept faith with the club at this very difficult time and paid their subscriptions. As we all know, we are not a 'pay as you go' club as there are expenses to cover regardless of whether we are able to play or not. These include rent, insurance utility bills (standing charges at the very least), repairs and renewals and lawn and mower maintenance and/or repair. All enabling us to start play as soon as lockdown is relaxed or over. The cut-off date for subscription payments of 30th April is fast approaching and we shall then have a clearer picture of our membership for 2020.

The best of times and the worst of times. This reference to the first lines of Dickens' Tale of Two Cities (somewhat amended) describes April this year for our club. The weather took a turn for the better and this continued throughout the month so far, but the Covid 19 pandemic hit us and the country hard. In the whole scheme of things our own club problems pale into significance and I recall writing in an email to someone earlier in the month that 'lives trump lawns'. Yes, it has been very disappointing that we couldn't start our season on 1st April in that brilliant weather, but these are very unusual times when we must put the safety and wellbeing of ourselves and others above everything else.

Please don't read this to mean we are not working on the lawns at the moment. Far from it! We spent many hours over the past fortnight cutting the lawns down in stages until they are now finally at a level that can be maintained by our club mower ready for the day we are out of lockdown. Even yesterday Peter Cutting spent three hours mowing all three lawns to maintain them at that level and there are plans to treat them with fertiliser later this week to take advantage of the forecast rain to wash it in.

Here's where I need your help. When we were reducing the length of grass on the lawns the removal of cuttings became not only very time consuming but also tiring alongside the actual mowing activity. We therefore had to resort to creating smaller piles of grass cuttings around the perimeter of the lawns. These now need to be removed to the two usual piles in the

corner of lawns 1 and 3, whichever is nearer. Can you help with this either in pairs or individually? It needs to be done sooner rather than later to ensure there is no long-term damage to the lawn surrounds but there are very strict 'rules' for anyone who does come to help. They are:

1. Maintain social distancing at all times.
2. As soon as you turn off the road and before opening the gates put on protective gloves. Disposable gloves are best for handling and unlocking/locking the padlocks.
3. Do not enter either the clubhouse or cabin. If you intend to stay working for any length of time please bring your own flask or cold drink and snack if required.
4. Let me know when you intend to go up so that we can ensure there are not too many people on the premises at any one time. For reasons of safety it is preferable for members to go up in pairs, but if you can't find anyone to go up with I would be happy to come and work with you if available.

Finally, you will be pleased to hear that Russell will no longer be telling you that he is in his ninetieth year!!! Yesterday, he finally made it to 90. Unfortunately the current lockdown situation prevented great celebrations for this, but over 20 of his neighbours strolled along to the section of road in front of his house to offer a dubious rendition of 'Happy birthday' and share a birthday cake with him.



Ably supervised by Berle, Russell cuts his birthday cake.

Keep safe and well and we'll hope to meet on the lawns soon,

Rhona