



8<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Member,

Hope everybody is well.

The club bar will be open from 1.00pm until 6.00pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and then the bar will be closed for 16 days. Hopefully it will not be any longer. The locker rooms will remain open for retrieval and storing of clubs only.

**Competitions:** These will continue as normal however as the bar is closed you will not be able to enter competitions at the bar after Friday. Therefore on competition days Gents please let the EL starter know that you are entering the Lochend tournament and you will be given a Lochend scorecard and your name added to the medal sheet. The club will automatically debit your bar account with the entry fee and sweep. On competition days during this period the shutter will be up so that you can enter the bar area to record your score in the computer. Please go on to the website for competition details including results.

**Handicapping:** As of November 2nd, 2020, the governing bodies of amateur golf in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales will introduce the new World Handicap System (WHS). The current golf handicapping system maintained by CONGU will be replaced by WHS which will unify the six different structures currently in operation throughout the world of golf. There is also a change to the way in which the individuals playing handicap is calculated which involves the use of a slope index.

Our current software provider is not moving to the WHS. Therefore we are adopting the system which is provided by Scottish Golf. You will therefore see some changes to the system when we start using this. To help facilitate this changeover the November Gents medal which was scheduled for Sat 7<sup>th</sup> November will now be held on Sat 31<sup>st</sup> October. We will be issuing further communications and guidance over the next few weeks. However if you would like further information on the system there is a series of instructional videos on the Scottish Golf website which can be accessed from the link below. <https://scottishgolf.org/handicapping-homepage/world-handicap-system/>

**Bunkers:** You don't need me to tell you just how bad the bunkers are on the course and we have spoken to Edinburgh Leisure about this. To clarify the rules you can take a preferred lie of not more than 6 inches however you cannot smooth the sand. If the bunker has water in it then you can move your ball to a part of the bunker where there is no water not nearer the hole without penalty. However if the bunker is full of water and you need to place your ball at the nearest point of relief outside the bunker then you incur a 1 shot penalty. We cannot make a local rule for bunkers full of water as this means the whole competition would be non-counting. We are though looking at how we can resolve this.

**AGM:** Because of restrictions we have not been able to hold our AGM for the year ending Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. As we will in all probability not be able to hold this in the club in the near future we are looking at holding this remotely by using one of the video conferencing platforms. If we can do this then we hope to hold the meeting in November. Will get back to you soon on this point

Regards

Alex Ferguson  
Captain, Lochend Golf Club