



SCOTTISH SENIORS GOLFING SOCIETY

FUTURE EVENTS

The Way Forward

The Current Position

Government guidelines to support the current 'lockdown' phase permits only essential travel and local exercise for an hour. The Government is expected to outline plans soon on how we move to the next stage, likely to be a 'test, trace and isolate' phase.

The impact on our events so far:-

- Cancelled 2 winter events at Monifieth and Leven
- Cancelled the Masters event at Scotsraig in April
- Cancelled 3 main events at Dunblane, Duff House Royal and Ladybank
- The remaining 9 events are under monthly review
- The Area Team event in October will be reviewed

Other golf decisions:-

- Scottish Golf has cancelled all 2020 events which includes the Men's Senior Open in June
- The R&A has moved the Senior Amateur Championship from July to September, and cancelled the Men's Senior Home Internationals in September

Pathway to Resuming Events

The decision to cancel events to end May was not made lightly, or purely on the basis of when it would be possible to play a round of golf, or even run an event in the future.

Going forward, we need to consider the full requirements to run a 36 hole tournament and similarly the following external points need to be satisfied before we can resume staging our tournaments:-

- What restrictions remain regarding essential travel only?
- When will courses be open for tournament golf for a field of 100 or more competitors?
- Would it be fair to close a host club's course for the best part of 2 days and deny the membership their facility when they have been starved of golf for many weeks/months at a key time of the year?
- Would it be safe for our volunteers to run events?
- Where would the participants stay - would hotels and guest houses be open?
- Once at the event, would clubhouses and restaurants be open for competitors' use?
- When will normal playing conditions be achieved? We could be playing with upturned cups, no rakes for bunkers etc for some time post restrictions being lifted and would need to decide if our tournaments should be contested under potentially restricted playing conditions?

Golf Restarting

There are several groups trying to get golf restarted and bits of information circulating on how golf might be played during the next phase. Key suggestions include :-

- 1, 2 or 3 players at extended tee time intervals and social distancing
- Restricted travel distance to play – perhaps 5 miles
- Clubhouses closed or open for toilet facilities only
- No rakes or removing flagsticks
- Social golf only and NO competitions

If golf is introduced in May/June under these conditions then we couldn't hold an event.

Basis for an SSGS Event

Taking everything into consideration, we decided the following basic circumstances would need to be in place for an event to take place:-

1. Government go ahead for competition golf with tee time intervals of 10 minutes
2. Government permit travel to all events
3. Host clubs agree to honour our bookings
4. Clubhouse facilities to support our members and administration
5. Local accommodation and restaurants available for members

If in place, members would then have the opportunity to play in an event, if they wanted to.

Review Meeting – 5th May

Attendees at the meeting:- Keith Ross, Ian Kerr, Jim Paterson, Ian Fraser, Neish Chisholm, Jim Devaney, Alex Hogg and Ian Johnston.

After a full discussion on the various issues and taking into account all available information, we took the following decisions:-

1. All SSGS events for 2020 are cancelled
2. Host clubs of cancelled 2020 events will be invited to host an event in 2021 or 2022, to fill gaps in our schedule where event venues have not yet been confirmed
3. Members have the option to carry forward their 2020 membership fee and competition entry fees to 2021, or request a refund by contacting Ian Kerr by email – comps@scottishseniorsgolf.com
4. The AGM and Annual Prizegiving Dinner will be held over to 2021
5. The trip to Spain in October remains on at the moment and will be reviewed as further travel information becomes available

Whilst these decisions are disappointing, we are sure that members will fully understand the unprecedented circumstances we are facing and that everyone's health and safety is more important, and hopefully social golf in some format will return soon.