

Chairman's Letter 22-5-19

Slow play – urgent action required by all members who play in weekend club competitions. Effective from June Medal.

All,

Yet again this week in the monthly stableford, over half the field were forced to have just under / over 5 hours to get around our golf course.

This issue is becoming a cancer within the competitions and i believe that drastic action needs to be taken or risk the possibility of taking 5 and a half to 6 hours hours for upcoming medals and honour board rounds.

There are numerous issues here but my main concerns are ones that i stipulated in February in my first chairman's letter -

- Players are becoming very upset the amount of time they are made to stay on the golf course
- Playing in the competitions is becoming unenjoyable due to continuous waiting around
- Players are not able to stay behind and socialise with other members due to their time being taken up on the course
- Members of the handicap committee inputting cards have to stay longer due to the length of time being taken
- Pressure from Burhill that competitions are taking too long

Due to fact this issue has continued now for years, I have agreed with the committee that with immediate affect the following shall be enforced;

1. When the draw is made for any weekend competition, the player who has the lowest handicap is responsible for recording the timings, for both the start time and the finish time.
2. The recording must be displayed on the scoreboard, if not the Captain / Chairman will demand an explanation by the group.
3. Any timings identified as being behind play will be recorded by the competition secretary and logged.
4. Recorded groups identified as "significantly" behind play will result in the entire group being individually put at the back of field the following week (back of the field being in the last few groups).
5. After a few weeks / months i expect to see some trends of certain individuals being regular instigators of slow play. These players identified will be penalised by the committee.
6. The committee are to appoint a slow play committee, a team of 3 members, not on the main committee, 2 male and 1 female. This 3-person committee is to assist and discuss the matters of slow play with other members and help with sanctions and penalties if it is necessary.
7. Penalties for serial slow players will be potential bans from future competitions and the prospect of playing at back of the field on a constant basis, therefore not necessarily holding up the majority of the competition, but potentially holding up pay and play / societies etc. Decisions made by the committee will be based on what is best for the competition not the individual concerned.
8. With this scenario serial abusers of slow play may have to be dealt with by Burhill should they continue to be an issue at the back of the field.
9. I will also be requesting that the on site marshals note the groups behind pace of play for the committee to review.

I remind all members who play in club competitions it is their responsibility to keep up with the group in front. Should you fall out of position for any reason and you are holding up the group behind, you must let them play through. There are also time indicators on the score card that tells you where you should be in 3 segments throughout the round.

To play in club competitions you the member must adhere not only to the pace of play requirements but to take part in the spirit of the game. Having groups behind you waiting constantly is unfair and not in the spirit expected. The above rules will come into effect as of the June Medal Sunday 2nd June 2019.

Mike Walsh – Chairman BPGCC