



County Newsletter

November 2018

“Golf needs to modernise. We need to speed up play and the rules need to be more easily understood, especially for those new to the game.” David Rickman, Executive Director – Governance at The R&A

Are you getting ready for the new rule changes coming in to play in January 2019? Maybe your club is putting on some awareness events.

If you'd like to see some short one minute videos to explain many of the key changes then follow this link: <https://www.rules.golf>

The 20 Must Know Rules are also outlined below in this newsletter

Upcoming County events

- **The Annual Boys Prize Presentation afternoon** at Kings Norton GC on **Sunday 6th January 2019**
All juniors U18, U16 and U14 are invited including parents and family members. The 2018 Boys' competition winners together with Team Manager's and players' player of the year awards will be presented on the day.
- **The Annual Men's County Dinner** at Kings Norton Golf Club on **Friday 18th January 2019**. Tickets are £32 per head, which includes a four-course meal and superb after dinner entertainment from **Mr Gary Marshall**. Contact your club organiser for more details.

County Seniors

Unfortunately, the County Senior Team lost 9-3 to Northamptonshire at Hennle Park GC on 22nd October in the Midland League Final. **This is the only match the seniors have lost this year during their record breaking season.** Thank you to Stourbridge GC for hosting their end of season get-together on Friday 2nd November.

County Juniors

Junior coaching has begun for all our teams with a new approach to U14 coaching and regular team sessions for the U16 and U18 squads. **Evan Lewis**, the Bromsgrove GC junior, has just signed a Letter of Intent, which will see him studying for a Sports Management Degree at Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia from August 2019. Good luck Evan.

The **Droitwich Shield, Kidderminster Cup & R&A Salvors** are well underway. 1st round matches need to be played by 25th November. All details are on the County website.

Please check our very informative website for all results, entry forms and match reports.

www.mens.worcestershireamateurgolf.co.uk

Bill Thompson County Chairman and Past President

20 Must Know Rules of Golf for 2019

1. Drop from knee height (NOT shoulder height)
2. Measure the area to drop in with the longest club in your bag (except a putter)
3. Drop in and play from the relief area
4. When dropping back-on-the-line, your ball cannot be played from nearer the hole than your chosen reference point
5. Time to search – 3 minutes (NOT 5 minutes)
6. If you accidentally move your ball when searching for it, replace it without penalty
7. No penalty for a double hit – it only counts as one stroke
8. No penalty if your ball hits you or your equipment accidentally after a stroke
9. No penalty if your ball strikes the flagstick when you have chosen to leave it in the hole
10. Spike mark and other shoe damage on the putting green can be repaired
11. Ball accidentally moved on putting green – no penalty and replace
12. Ball marked, lifted and replaced on putting green is moved by wind to another position – replace ball on the original spot
13. Penalty areas replace water hazards, and you can move loose impediments, ground your club and take practice swings in penalty areas without penalty, just as you can on the fairway or in the rough
14. You can't take relief from a penalty area unless you are at least 95% certain your ball is in the penalty area
15. In bunkers you can move loose impediments
16. In bunkers you cannot touch the sand with your club in the area right in front of or right behind your ball, during your backswing or in taking practice swings
17. Free relief is allowed if your ball is embedded on the fairway or in the rough (but "embedded" means that part of your ball is below the level of the ground)
18. Unplayable ball in bunker – extra option to drop outside the bunker for 2 penalty strokes
19. You cannot have your caddie or your partner standing behind you once you begin taking your stance
20. Pace of Play - it is recommended that you take no longer than 40 seconds to make a stroke (and usually you should be able to play more quickly than that) and Ready Golf in stroke play is encouraged