

Gillingham Golf Club Limited

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December 2020

Recent wet weather and course usage by members using trolleys and buggies has caused considerable damage to the course in areas of heavy traffic. This is significantly higher than would be usual at this time of year and is likely to impact the condition of the course in the main playing season if action isn't taken to manage this now.

Accordingly the Greens Committee, after consulting the greens staff, have taken the decision that the condition of the heavy traffic areas should be a primary factor in determining whether the course should open going forward as these are becoming hazardous for all.

This will mean that the course may be closed completely or a ban on all trolleys/buggies may be imposed if conditions are considered to be dangerous for their use.

It is with some reluctance that we take this course but the evidence shows too many are ignoring basic rules of safety in the use of buggies and that members are ignoring ropes and other directions to limit traffic in parts of the course.

Where buggies and trolleys are permitted;

- please stick to walking or driving in the rough or semi, only going onto fairways as needed to play a shot.
- give greens a wide berth as the greens surrounds take a hammering at this time of year.
- avoid areas of high traffic, also giving them a wide berth where possible.
- avoid making sharp turns.
- drive more slowly to avoid skidding.

Please remember this is your course and the way you play it affects both other members but also your own enjoyment of it going forward. Failing to stick to basic principles of traffic management at this time of year causes damage to the course which can take months to recover and adversely affects playability during the season.

Peter Kiernan
Greens Chair