



Wycombe Heights Seniors - Update



PLEASE READ AND TAKE NOTE !!!

Pace of Play 2019

Slow play continues to cause frustration and even anger, and a topic of much discussion, so we want to try - AGAIN ! - to get some messages across about the simple things that can be done to avoid delays, so please look at these points and try to action them.

Think about the other players. You can be frustrated by others' slow play, so think about what they think of you ! None of these should be difficult to implement...

- **Always be ready to play your shot...**
 - you don't have to wait for the other players in the group to play their shot before you can decide which club you're going to use and take it out of your bag.
 - you could walk towards your ball if it is ahead of theirs, as long as you don't distract the others in your group or move into the line of their shot.
 - Also note that from 2019 there is a new 'rule' about the time taken to play a shot :
 - *It is recommended that you make the **stroke** in no more than 40 seconds after you are (or should be) able to play without interference or distraction. (You should usually be able to play more quickly than that and are encouraged to do so.)*
- **Play 'ready golf' where this is appropriate...**
 - it would be good practice to agree this with the others in your group, although remember in matchplay that shots should be taken in the correct order.
 - where the player may want to wait until those in front are clear, think about another player playing their shot if they are unlikely to hit it that far.
- **If in doubt play a provisional...**
 - if there is any doubt about whether or not you will find your ball, play a provisional, especially in strokeplay.
- **Consider picking up...**
 - when there is no point in playing another shot, pick up and move on - for example when you've 'blobbed' in stableford or have already lost the hole in matchplay. While you may feel you've paid your money and want to complete the hole, you must consider how this can affect the others.
- **Help your playing partners - for example...**

- rake the bunker for your partner.
- replace divots.
- mark their ball on the green.
- move their bag/trolley.
- **Remind your playing partners...**
 - while this has to be done sensitively, sometimes people are slow simply because they're not thinking and would not be offended by a reminder.
- **Always be aware of the group behind...**
 - there is nothing more frustrating than following a group who are slow and who just don't seem to even be aware that the group behind may be being held up.
- **Be prepared to call the group behind through...**
 - be aware that the group behind may be ready to play, and if you know you have a major search underway or are clearly holding them up, consider letting them play through.
- **Park your trolley in the best place...**
 - be aware of where you need to go when finishing a hole so that you make sure you leave your trolley in an appropriate place.
- **Leave the green as quickly as possible...**
 - replace the flag and move on to the next tee straight away
 - don't mark your card until you're on the next tee.
- **Don't delay things by chatting...**
 - of course golf is a friendly social game with plenty of chat and banter, but don't stop to chat if it will hold things up. There's usually plenty of time for that while you're walking to the hole (but don't dawdle !) or on the next tee (but don't if you could tee off!) or, of course, at the 19th!
 - shaking hands on the 18th is an essential part of the game but remember you can do this away from the green!
- **Call-up holes...**
 - remember that for Monday competitions the 2nd and 16th holes are designated as call-up holes. If the following group are ready to play, mark your balls, make sure your trolleys are not in the way, move away from the green and signal to the group that they can take their tee shots.
 - Apart from keeping things moving, this also allows you to see where their tee shots land and let them know whether it's OK or you may need to play a provisional.

Remember...

Enjoy the game but consider other players. You can be frustrated by others' slow play, so consider what they think of you! None of the above should be difficult to implement, so please play your part in helping us all to speed the game up!