



31 July 2020

Dear Member,

COVID-19 and Cricket at Shawholm

Another month has passed and at least we have seen a phased return to cricket practice in line with the strict guidelines set out by Cricket Scotland and the Scottish Government. I am grateful to Josh Sajjad who has been organising our COVID-19-safe net and fielding sessions and to Josh and Grant Cathcart for acting as session monitors for the club over the last month.



Return to cricket activities

Unfortunately, the announcement the other day about a delay in moving to Phase 4 of easing lockdown restrictions is, understandably, disappointing for many in the cricket community as it means that matches between clubs are unlikely to be able to take place until at least the end of August.

The Cricket Scotland announcement states "*Under yesterday's announcement by the Scottish Government that the country remains in Phase 3 of the route map, cricket activity remains limited to club-based activity until 24th August. We recognise this is hugely frustrating to all of us as much work had already been done to arrange and prepare for friendly fixtures during August.*

Although the introduction of intra-club games has proved successful within many clubs, we are particularly conscious that smaller clubs with lower membership numbers, particularly in rural locations, are not able to play 11-a-side intra-club matches, (though other formats such as six-a-side games might be possible).

Cricket Scotland has been actively lobbying for an early resumption of cricket activity and matches throughout the gradual easing of lockdown. As a result of yesterday's announcement, Cricket Scotland is today writing to the Sports Minister and the First Minister to argue cricket's case again.

Cricket Scotland met with the regional and match official associations this morning, as part of a series of such meetings which have taken place throughout the crisis, to discuss the situation and the steps now being taken."

I do hope that during August we will see some actual cricket matches being at Shawholm, albeit intra-club fixtures.

Our groundsman, Adam Richardson and his team, including assistant Andrew Melville, have continued to work on the ground and Shawholm, once again, looks like an arena for playing cricket following low cuts on the outfield and extensive work on the main square.



Although we will have limited cricket opportunities this season, the work that the groundstaff are doing will see significant improvements in the playing surface in season 2021.



Investment in new combi-rake



Investment in upgraded Water Hogs

As has been a recurring message in these communications, I would again like to encourage all cricketers, both senior and junior to ensure that their subscriptions are up-to-date. Anyone who has not paid their full or up-to-date instalments will not be permitted to use the facilities.

I have also been glad to see the resumption of the **BodyFit** fitness section through July with a range of outdoor training taking place over recent weeks. Any club members who feel they need to lose a few of those lockdown pounds should contact Stuart Irons (07546-770998) or Adam O'Donnell (07456-574812) who will be delighted to hear from you.

I am also pleased to note that there has been some interest in recent weeks in the resurrection of the **Winter Golf Section** at Poloc. For those members who are unaware, Poloc has one of very few, officially recognised by the Royal and Ancient, 6 hole golf courses in the world. The groundstaff are keen to work on the greens and tees to allow this weekend winter activity to resume later this year.



If any member would be keen to participate in Winter Golf could I ask that you pass your name to the Club Secretary, Keith Young (keith.young@poloc.com), so that we can assess how much interest there would be in this venture.

Finally, I had the opportunity to have a conversation with one of our oldest living members and former President, Mr Bill McLaughlin, whilst on a visit to Arran in early July. Bill, as always, was very keen to hear about developments at Shawholm and we spent a good hour talking about his time at Poloc and the plans for the club going forward. Bill and Aileen send their best wishes to all at Shawholm who remember them.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kenneth J A Robertson.

Kenneth J A Robertson
President