



DUTIES OF A COURSE RANGER

Ray Burniston looks at the roles of officials.

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Many clubs are now employing a Course Ranger to control play on the course at least during the peak times of the year. If your green fee income is much in excess of £100,000 a year then it is probably good practice to do this. In most cases the person should have a motorised buggy and with a name plate stating what they do. Having someone going around the course at busy times can keep an eye on slow play as well as ensuring that those playing the course are either members or visitors, having paid the correct fees.

In many cases the Course Ranger will also assist in starting societies/club matches. At the same time, they can keep an eye on the flow of the course and try to prevent any bottlenecks developing. Club members are often like sheep - all arrive at the same time and expect to get out on the course almost immediately. So control at busy times can save you as secretary/manager a lot of hassle.

If you use the services of a retired/unemployed member for this post, it is best to have a proper contract and you will have to pay at least the National Minimum Rate. Apart from wages they will also be covered by the club insurance in using a course buggy to carry out their duties. It is also very important to set out their job description which covers all aspects of the job and gives them the necessary authority to deal with both members and visitors.

Having a Course Ranger can be of great benefit to a club but you need to determine the duties carefully and decide what sort of hours the course would benefit from this. The duties will vary from club to club depending on numbers of visitors and play by members.

1. In some instances the person may act as a starter or at least see that visiting parties get away from the tee on time. It is better at a busy club to have separate persons doing each job.
2. Checking that all players on the course have either a current membership tag or a green fee ticket for the day is a priority.
3. You must set out clearly the policy to adopt if players have neither. In the case of member's guests then the member's name should be sufficient.
4. A course buggy, along with means of communication, is essential for the job. This person should be able to carry out simple first aid and should carry such equipment on the vehicle.

5. The person must have the authority to warn players about slow play and in certain instances ask them to leave the course. In most cases a brief warning is all that is required.
6. If you have two starting points then the Course Ranger must be fully briefed on the club policy on this and if necessary hold back players from starting until the tee is clear.

Detailed daily instructions, along with details of all visiting parties, club fixtures and other items that could have an influence on play on the course, must be included.

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