



## CLOSING THE COURSE DUE TO ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Ray Burniston writes about course closure.

Secretary at Work : January 2001 *(reviewed August 2011)*

Although this will normally be decided by the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper there will be times perhaps at weekends when somebody else will have to make a decision. In most cases it will be the secretary. Members will put pressure on you to open up the course for play if the sun is shining, even after several inches of rain the day before. Hopefully your Greenkeeper will have briefed you. If their opinion is that the course is unfit for the day then you should support this and make sure any notices state that. It is always important to clearly set out what is the chain of command. This would be either within the Course Policy Document or under daily instructions. Your committee and others should back you on this. Always try to have these matters clearly in writing within the club and if necessary posted on the club notice board. Many clubs include this information under the Club By-Laws. If you are away on holiday then make sure that whoever is standing in for you is aware of the policy so that they do not get into difficulties.

The problem will often arise because of the vast numbers of winter competitions held at many clubs. It is probably sensible to cancel the competition rather than try and appease a few members by playing it. At some clubs where they have both winter tees and greens they may play the competition but it cannot be a qualifying competition for handicap purposes.

Once again it is usually a matter of good communications and having the policy clearly set out in Club Rules/By Laws.

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