

SENIOR LIFE -THE FACTS

In 1974 Willesley Park had a long waiting list for membership. At that time joining fees were double the annual subscription and therein lay potential income just waiting to be realised.

At the EGM of 29th March 1974 members were asked to vote on a Special Resolution, which was carried, to create a new category of membership of Senior Life for all those who had been members for 25 years and had reached the age of 70 for men, 65 for ladies. At the AGM of 18th November 1978 members were asked to vote on a Special Resolution to equalise the qualifying age to 65 for all members who had been members for 25 years. This Resolution was also carried.

As each Full Member qualified for Senior Life Membership a new member was automatically recruited and the maximum number of Full Members was maintained. This worked very well for many years, subscription revenue stayed constant with an additional injection of cash from joining fees each year. We can assume that the quality of the golf course we enjoy today is as a result of all this extra income.

Unfortunately, our elders could not have foreseen the downturn in golf club membership, not only at Willesley Park, but nationally. Nor could it have been anticipated that members would still be playing golf well into their eighties.

The Board of the day 1994 doubted whether the club would be able to maintain indefinitely the commitment of giving 100% loyalty discount to new members when they qualified for Senior Life Category of membership. At the AGM on 18th November 1994 the members voted by majority on a Resolution that those members who joined WPGC after 1st April 1995 and qualified for Senior Life Membership (reaching the age of 65 with 25 years continuous membership) the loyalty discount would be decided upon at the appropriate time. The first of those members who joined WPGC after 1st April 1995 will be qualifying for this discount in 2020. The level of discount will be a subject for discussion for The Board during 2019 and will be communicated to members as soon as a formula for discounting has been agreed.

The entitlement to 100% discount on subscriptions for Senior Life Members applies to those members who joined WPGC before 1st April 1995 and is written into The Willesley Park Golf Club Articles of Association.

In 2012, and at considerable cost, advice from a London Barrister was sought whether the 1974 and 1978 resolutions could be changed. Counsel's opinion was that the Senior Life Resolutions could be challenged, but would require a 90% majority of the qualifying group (those members who joined WPGC before 1st April 1995) in agreement. The prospect of achieving this was doubtful, and taking into consideration the additional legal costs involved, it was decided not to pursue this further.

Many Senior Life Members currently make voluntary anonymous contributions to WPGC and all playing Senior Life Members pay the necessary Insurance and County EGU fees.

I hope this explains the circumstances surrounding Senior Life Category of Membership which will continue to reward the loyalty of members of Willesley Park Golf Club into the future.

Janet Seal
Chairperson

October 2018