

January 2021



Dear Junior Golf Knockout Organisers,

Firstly, a happy new year to you all and we hope you are keeping safe and well during these extremely challenging times.

With the new year upon us our thoughts have turned to the 2021 Junior Golf Knockout Tournament which, due to the first lockdown last March, was postponed with the 2020 fixtures being 'rolled-over' to 2021. When that decision was made last year, we were full of confidence that the tournament would resume in 2021 but unfortunately, nearly a year later, we still find ourselves in the middle of a global pandemic.

Over the past few weeks we have been speaking with Ian Restall, our Tournament Manager about the situation we now find ourselves in regarding the pandemic, national lockdown and the impact on this year's tournament. After careful consideration, we are sorry to have to inform you that we have no option other than to cancel this year's event. We know this will be a disappointment to many as indeed it is to us, but we feel that running a nationwide competition at this time is just not viable and we hope you will understand and support our decision.

Whilst we rolled the entry fees over from 2020 to 2021, with the uncertainty that surrounds the pandemic and our being unable to confidently reschedule for this year, we will be offering all clubs the option of a refund on their entry fee. This is never an easy decision for a charity to arrive at – we have had an extremely difficult year and have experienced a huge loss of income while the demand for our services has increased exponentially. We continue to make sure we provide a caring, professional service for children and families and have provided over 6000 counselling sessions and worked with nearly 800 children and families since the pandemic began. We know that the coronavirus pandemic is affecting all our lives and that our work supporting children and young people's mental health is more vital now than ever and so we would ask respectfully if you are able to do so, that you allow us to treat your entry fee as a donation to support our work.

If you decide to request a refund of your entry fee we would ask you (for audit purposes) to send an email to jabbott@bccs.org.uk stating the name of the club and the bank details into which you would like us to transfer the refund. With all staff at the charity working remotely and on reduced hours we would ask that you be patient with us as the refund process will cause significant extra work for us during these already challenging times; thank you for your understanding.

On a lighter note, we would like to reassure you that we are fully committed to running our National Junior Knockout Competition in 2022 and look forward to contacting you again very soon with what we hope will be much more positive news. We will be contacting staff at the De Vere Staverton Golf Club to book in our Finals' Weekend as soon as it is practical to do so and will inform you immediately we have a confirmed booking. In the meantime, we will post any updates on our social media channels and would ask you to follow us now, throughout the next year and when life finally returns to normal, perhaps you could tag us in some of your photos as your juniors practise and prepare for tournaments:

- Twitter & Instagram = bccs_charity
- Facebook = bccscharity
- website: www.bccs.org.uk

With our very best wishes to you, all your young players and their families at this time.

Kind Regards,

Julie and Ian

bccs - Brentwood Catholic Children's Society