

Captain's Blog

Welcome!

Where would we be without "Signs"? In most cases the answer would be "Lost"!!

As members at Tain GC we pay very little, if any, attention to the number of signs that are placed around the Golf Course and Clubhouse.

Why should we? We are familiar with our surroundings. They don't apply to us.

We also don't need to be told "Next Tee This Way" when we are out on the Golf Course; we've played it a hundred times!

So, who are they for and why do we have to provide them?

Obviously, they are there for the hundreds of visitors we get each year. *"It would have been nice to have put "thousands" in there. Maybe next year!"*

Some of our visitors return year after year. We don't need to tell The Stotters where all the facilities are.

In fact, it's a good job they know where everything is. They are usually giving us a helping hand to find them after employing their underhand tactics of plying us

with tainted refreshments throughout the Sunday morning of the Annual Stotters Match.

We are also privileged to have several other local golfers who appear at many of our Opens to play our fine links because they enjoy the challenge. They are aware of where everything is in the Clubhouse and how to navigate their own way around the Golf Course.

Many of the signs are there for those that are new to Tain. They tell them “Pro Shop This Way” or “Locker Rooms and Office”

Working in the Pro Shop, I don't get tired of explaining to visitors to Tain where the Locker Rooms, Rest Rooms are, or where the putting green is. It's part of the job and it gives us chance to meet and greet them on a face to face basis.

After a brief introduction to some of the holes on the course, we just point them off in the direction of the first tee and wish them well for the next few hours and hope that they return having had a great game and look forward to the next time they play the course.

Fortunately, the layout of our course doesn't require us to provide directions for visitors to the next tee or *what number bus you need to catch to get you there!* All our Tees are within a wedge away from the last played green.

We also shouldn't need to put signs everywhere asking golfers to "Replace your divots", "Repair your Pitchmarks", "Please Rake the Bunkers" and "Don't push (or drive!) your buggies or carts on the Tees or Greens".

I know that we are all prone to the odd lapse, (*I was considering using the phrase "senior moment" but felt that this might be seen as me having a bit of a dig – heaven forbid!*).

We do have a large sign out at the A9 that lets people know we are here and directs people into the town. There are a couple of smaller signs that further point them down to the Links.

To me, the sign that is the most important one around the whole of Tain Golf Club including the Golf Course, is the one that catches our eye once we have made our way down through the town and along Chapel Road. It's the same sign that greets visitors arriving by coach after they have made their way from the various Airports, Hotels and Golf Courses on their trip of a lifetime around Scotland and specifically the Highlands.

The message is as applicable to Members as it is to returning friends and those visiting us for the very first (and hopefully not the last) time.

WELCOME TO TAIN GOLF CLUB