

## GOLF FORUM

### Join the Golf Forum at this year's new season Members' Meeting

**G**lad to see the back of 2020 and looking forward to things returning to something like normality as early as possible in 2021? So are we!

At the time of writing, measures in force to control the spread of Covid-19 have closed golf courses across the UK. In spite of this, we are optimistic that sensible and appropriate application of future rules will allow us to hold our season-opening Members' Meeting (playing for the Chairman's Cup) at Beaconsfield Golf Club on Tuesday 13th April 2021.

Beaconsfield is a beautifully presented, classic course with excellent practice facilities – particularly the Luke Donald short game area. The course remains basically the same as when it was originally designed in 1913 by H S 'Harry' Colt and has many of his trademark features. In particular, it is very well bunkered and has unusually large greens. Each of the holes has its own character and is separated from its neighbouring holes by mature mixed woodland. Apart from the 6th and 8th



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holes, it offers very easy walking, though a few single-seat buggies are available for hire.

If the aforementioned restrictions allow, it is traditional at this opening meeting for the Golf Forum AGM to follow a post-round meal and presentation of prizes. With decisions to be made about some key committee roles, future event venues and new handicap rules, this is the time for existing and new (especially welcome) members to have their say on the direction of the society. Moreover, this is an excellent

opportunity to meet influential business colleagues for networking and to entertain guests at an affordable price.

Further details of the event, including an entry form, can be found on the Golf Forum website: [www.ciltgolf.co.uk](http://www.ciltgolf.co.uk) or by contacting the event organiser, Derek Messenger. [derek.d.messenger@btopenworld.com](mailto:derek.d.messenger@btopenworld.com)

**Cameron Grant**  
Committee Member,  
Golf Forum.

## RAILWAY STUDY FORUM

### Getting back on board

**A**nthony Smith, CEO Transport Focus, was guest speaker at a recent virtual talk, a popular session attended by a diverse audience.

He talked about the basic requirements of our customers ahead of a railway comeback. Quite simply, their needs have not changed; they command flexibility, relevant products and services, timely and accurate information, and they want choice. We had a good debate over the first and last mile and Anthony Smith discussed how, whilst navigation and signposting is helpful, he does not recognise it as a priority or an aspect that will prevent travel at this stage. There were good challenge from the audience on accessibility and how the industry is making itself available to all. Transport Focus has advocated for some time that access, information, safety and retailing should all be developed through the lens of being accessible to all demographics, not just those with disabilities, and we should continue to place key focus on that.

The elephant or elephants, in this case, in the room were of course Covid-19 and the much-awaited Williams White paper. Who

knows? is an apt phrase for both. Who knows when Covid-19 will fall away and allow a sense of normality? We remain hopeful now that the vaccine has penetrated those whom are most vulnerable. As for the white paper, the pendulum still swings. We anticipate publication at the end of February with a safety net of before Easter being

quoted – perhaps. Anthony Smith's view was that the best the sector can do right now is to be ready and 'market the hell out of itself', using a 'stack 'em high, sell 'em cheap supermarket mentality.

**Jacqueline Starr FCILT,**  
President,  
Railway Study Forum.



▲ Anthony Smith believes that despite the pandemic, the needs of the railway consumer have not changed