

Ross Priory Club University of Strathclyde



Newsletter

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COVID-19 RECAP 2021

Firstly, we would like to thank all our club members who have supported us over the pandemic so far and through the resulting closures and restrictions. It has been very much appreciated by all.

For the past few months you will be aware that we've been operating within the Beyond Level 0 guidelines and are pleased that a more 'normal' level of business has returned to Ross Priory with no restrictions on customer numbers or social distancing. Members and visitors are still required to wear face coverings on arrival and departure and while moving around the house. As was already the case, face coverings are not required when seated to eat and drink. We continue to remain cautious as we move into the winter again, as staff continue to wear face coverings when serving and operate at 1m distance behind the scenes, in line with the University's own policies. Hand sanitising stations are located around the house for members and guests to use. See [FAQs on the Scottish Government web pages](#)

As customer contact details are still a legal requirement for track and trace, we continue to operate a system of pre-booking for all bookings including bar lunches to allow our team to manage the space and avoid any unnecessary bottlenecks/pinch points within the house and ensure that we are compliant.

For golf, members continue to use the Master Scoreboard system that was adopted last year for booking. This has proved successful, giving our golfers guaranteed tee times and ensuring that we comply with all the necessary track and trace requirements.

For boating, members also continue to use the booking system in place. This is still necessary while there is a legal requirement for track and trace.

WEDDINGS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Sadly so many weddings and other events for 2020 and 2021 had to be postponed or even cancelled, due to the lockdown and/or the subsequent restrictions.

A few very lucky couples managed to go ahead with their weddings over the course of the past year and more, albeit with a lot of compromises along the way... and wonderful memories made nonetheless.

Congratulations to them all!



Since we moved to zero distancing in August, we have seen more larger weddings take place as well as anniversaries, birthdays and other events.

We have even started to welcome back some meetings, workshops and conferences in recent weeks, all the while complying with mask wearing and acquiring contact details. No small achievement!



On Thursday 28th October 2021 we saw the University's own Electronic & Electrical Engineering department launch their long awaited 5G project at Ross Priory.

In conjunction with that, the house now has superfast fibre, improving the premise's connection download speeds to 1Gb and the wi-fi speeds now up to 500Mb from a previous 14Mb.

This all fell in line very nicely with our first big conference of the year held over COP26 for Global Ethical Finance Initiative who took advantage of the new improved signal to broadcast their talks throughout the event.



OUR WEB PAGE

www.strath.ac.uk/rosspriory

We're on Facebook



www.Facebook.com/RossPriory

OSPREYS

For a second year, the two ospreys, Jean and Hector (our own fond names for them) settled at Ross Priory to nest and breed. Lessons were learned from last year and we were prepared for them. Measures were taken to protect them during their time at Ross Priory and our members, especially the golfers, were largely very supportive and kept their distance to allow them the opportunity to be more successful than last year.

Our team even set up a telescope at the front door to allow members and guests to view at a safe distance and this was greatly appreciated by so many.

Sadly the inexperience of the birds meant they did not have the patience to stay on the nest for more than a few days after the young chicks hatched. Fingers crossed for 2022 and third time lucky!



Wildlife photography courtesy of Donald Jamie

REFURBISHMENT

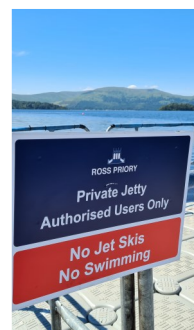
Following on from the new flooring in the Lochside Cottage, the bedroom carpets in both Inchcailloch and Torrinch have been replaced earlier this year and are a welcome improvement to these executive bedrooms.



NEW JETTY SIGNAGE

New signage has been installed at the jetty and lochshore to ensure that members and visitors are aware that it is private (for use of water sports members only) and that jet skis are not permitted nor is it safe to swim in this area.

We are currently looking at proposals to create a safe area for swimming and other activities. Further updates to follow in due course.



GROUNDS & GARDENS

Driveway Repairs

In May we advised members that repairs would be happening on the section of our driveway between the Y junction and the front of the house. There was no argument to be made; this was a much needed repair. The works took place as planned at the end of July. It was necessary to close the house and stop access to the estate for a 4 day period to allow the works to take place uninterrupted. This is an interim measure and it is now much improved.



Play Park

Early this year, during lockdown, our grounds staff took the chance to fence in the children's play park.

The old iron fencing was past its best and not fit for purpose. This was replaced with smart wooden fencing which not only improves the aesthetics of the play ground but also helps to keep unwanted wild animals out of the area.

