



CAR PARKS & LOCKER ROOMS

Reviewed June 2011

The problem has become a nightmare for many secretaries. Protecting the clubhouse from intruders during the time the place is locked is one thing, but perhaps an equally important problem for the Secretary is protecting areas whilst it is open.

The vulnerable areas are usually as follows:

- ☛ Car Parks
- ☛ Locker Rooms

Car Parks

The layout of many clubs often means that the car parks especially the area reserved for visitors are isolated and often badly lit during the hours of darkness. It is usual to visit some of these clubs with this type of car park for visitors, to see the evidence of problems by the remains of broken windscreens and windows which are scattered around. There is nothing more upsetting to a golfer than to find his/her car has been broken into or worse on returning to the car park. The question is what can the Golf Club do about it? In fact some people might argue should the club do anything, you have a disclaimer notice on prominent view should you try to attempt anything else?

Lighting/TV Cameras

The first thing that could be done is to improve the lighting at night time, and at some clubs TV cameras have been installed that scan the area and take a video film of the car park. Most of us see copies of these video films on our local crime watch programmes on TV. These show pictures which range from good to poor and of course show the crime happening but do not prevent it. Even if you have them relayed to a central TV screen in either the professionals shop, the bar or the secretary's office, they are not likely to be manned all the time. But they do represent some effort to crime prevention and are better than nothing.

Security Attendant

Perhaps the solution might be for the club to have some form of security attendance at least on busy days at the club. This could be in the form of a guard along with a van who would be on duty in the car park throughout the day or night on busy occasions. The cost of this could be added to the overall charge whether it is a golfing society, golfing or social event. In fact the

advertised presence of a good security firm on the site of a car park is likely to have a knock-on effect in the locker rooms and the rest of the clubhouse.

Car Park Sticker

If a club provided members with a car park sticker annually then it would make it easier for any attendant to know which cars are members and which are either guests or possible unwelcome guests. A club should certainly look carefully at providing better security in their car parks especially in the view of the fairly high cost of society golf these days. Those clubs who have large numbers of visitors throughout the golfing season should look very closely at providing permanent security before perhaps spending large amounts on other devices such as TV cameras.

One Entrance

Try to have only one way in and out of the car park. The more entrances and exits you have the greater the risk. If it is isolated, fencing it in at least helps to control who is about.

Locker Rooms

The locker rooms are again important to try to improve security. Unfortunately even with all the warnings players still leave wallets, credit cards, cheque books and other valuables in their clothing in the locker room. If you can have separate changing areas for members and guests including the washing and toilet areas, this helps. But if this is not practicable the presence of a locker room attendant can help with security especially on busy days. Many locker rooms are built with lockers blocking the view which makes it easy for the opportunist thief and that along with players who constantly leave their valuables in the pockets of their clothing hanging up for all to see. Try to improve the area when you refurbish by siting the lockers in a separate area and if possible have separate facilities for visitors. I do however believe that the presence of an attendant should be compulsory at any club that is providing its facilities for golfing societies and this should be inclusive of the price charged.

However returning to the first part of this article **GOOD SECURITY IN THE CAR PARK AREAS MAY WELL REDUCE CRIME IN THE CLUBHOUSE.**

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