

HELSEBY GOLF CLUB

GREEN POLICY DOCUMENT

TITLE	GREENS AND SURROUNDS MANAGEMENT
REFERENCE	4.1 version 2
DATE	NOVEMBER 2012
OWNERS	COG/HG
PURPOSE	<p>To provide true, firm and dry putting surfaces and green surrounds that give the correct conditions for deep rooting fine grasses to grow, that will resist compaction yet remain firm throughout the year, will retain adequate moisture in the root zone but will still allow rapid drainage during periods of prolonged rain and enable year round golf to be played. To promote the growth of fine grasses (browntop bentgrass and fine fescue) and to provide high quality putting surfaces which are consistent green to green. These objectives will only be achieved by promoting dry and firm surfaces. Soft, holding surfaces are to be wholly discouraged.</p>
BACKGROUND	<p>The greens at Helsby were formed when the two halves of the course were constructed, the front nine circa 1950 and the back nine circa 1970. The method of construction was limited to a thin layer of top soil laid over a heavy clay base with little or no drainage. The grass on the greens was annual meadow grass which is prevalent in the area. Over the years some herringbone drainage was introduced and in 1980 an automatic watering system was installed. In 1996 a green replacement programme was initiated with the objective of rebuilding all greens to the modern USPGA specification, to date all greens with the exception of holes 1,3,5,6,8 and 17 have been rebuilt with a resulting improvement in condition and playability. The 9th green was the last to be rebuilt in 2006/7. In 2007 a report was commissioned from the STRI (Appendix B) and it was suggested that only the 6th green required complete reconstruction, the remaining unreconstructed greens being improved by the installation of a pipe drainage system.</p>
CURRENT SITUATION	<p>The STRI report noted that the greens are generally in good health and the basic maintenance programme is sound.</p>
PLAN	<p>A programme will be based on the following and flexible enough to react with changing or unexpected weather conditions and any other unplanned events. In line with the Creative Course Design report (Appendix A) and STRI assessment (Appendix B) all work on greens and surrounds will take into account the recommendations therein .</p>

- Greens will be mown daily through the growing season to a height of 5mm, this will be raised to 7mm over winter.
- Verti-cutting, top dressing and aeration programmes will be formulated to prevent the build up of thatch and to prevent the compaction of the soil profile.
- Throughout the summer and autumn months micro tining will be done every 4-6 weeks, followed by light and frequent top dressings.
- Verti-cutting will be carried out as and when necessary throughout the growing season.
- Slitting will be performed from October through to January to a depth of 150mm –200mm every 7 –10 days as weather permits.
- Applications of wetting agents will be made through the spring/summer periods to combat dry patch by aiding moisture penetration to soils.
- Fertilizer and irrigation will be provided to a minimum level to redress wear in order to promote a dense turf of fine texture.
- During winter months sward colour and disease resistance will be maintained by regular applications of Sulphate of Iron.
- In order to improve the condition of the soil, granular or liquid non – calcified seaweed will be applied as necessary.
- Pest and disease management will follow established greenkeeping principles.
- Overseeding should be undertaken with a mixture of fine grasses with a high percentage of browntop bentgrass.
- The approach and surrounds will be managed, except for cutting, in as similar a manner to greens as is feasible. The approach and surround will be mown at 12mm a minimum of twice a week and as necessary over winter to retain a tidy presentation and a clear definition. The width of ‘apron’ will be consistent at 1 ‘sidewinder’ cut
- Holes will be cut on Mondays and Friday afternoon and occasionally on other days when required eg Captains weekend, Open week, etc. The hole position will rotate in accordance with the sequential diagram designed to avoid wear – this will include winter hole positions.
- From time to time 2 holes will be cut on each green (one capped) to facilitate new hole positions, specifically at weekends