

**DUNFERMLINE GOLF CLUB**  
**Woodland Management Strategy**  
**and**  
**Outline Plan**  
**Period 2018 - 2023**

## **DUNFERMLINE GOLF CLUB**

### **Woodland Management Strategy and Outline Plan**

#### **Period 2018 - 2023**

#### **Introduction.**

The Dunfermline Golf Club has existed in its current location since 1954. It has been developed on what was a typical park landscape associated with an historic large house - in this case Pitfirrane Castle, a grade A listed building. The Lands of Pitfirrane date back to 1200-1214 during the reign of William the Lion. The original Tower House at Pitfirrane was built by Philip Halkett in the early 1400's. Latterly Sir Charles Halkett produced seven daughters and the Seven Lime trees (now only six) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Hole represent each daughter. The plantation has been supplemented by the many saplings brought back from each sisters' foreign sojourns.

Tree management within a parkland golf course and in particular Dunfermline Golf Club, because of its historic background, is an integral part of the development of the Golf Course Management Plan. At the outset, it should be accepted that our trees are a key asset and therefore have significant financial value and should be managed in a professional manner with a long-term view in mind. As you enter the golf course you become aware of large Limes, Sycamores and Beeches as part of the original landscape. In 1983 a large volume of evergreens was planted to supplement the existing tree population, primarily to give definition to fairways and provide some short-term protection to smaller deciduous/hard wood trees. Many of these evergreens have outgrown their usefulness and are hindering the growth and development of the indigenous and historic saplings previously planted.

As a result, the club is developing a five-year ongoing strategy to manage the trees on the course. This tree management strategy is an attempt identify, remove, and replace trees with more indigenous types, whilst allowing play to adhere to the rules of golf, managing the safety and risk to members, visitors and staff, providing colour, habitat for wildlife, whilst continuing the historic themes of Dunfermline Golf Club. The strategy is directed to inform members and update current and future club/council managers to continue to manage the tree population successfully for generations to come.

It is important to ensure plans are made for tree management well in advance of any works to ensure club managers are able to keep members informed and more importantly gain their confidence.

#### **Strategic Objectives**

Within Dunfermline Golf Club it is essential to balance the conflict of tree placement and growth to:

- Ensure there is limited conflict between growth and the rules of golf,
- Create an environment which allows the continued development and improvement of greens, tees and fairways, whilst managing the risk of stray play.
- Wild life habitat must be considered.
- Aesthetically the trees must give a balance of colour, be in proportion and scale within the landscape, have trees of all ages and above all be managed to reduce the risk to course users.
- With the historic nature of the location the landscape and planting programme must be aligned to original themes.

## **Implementation of the Strategy**

In order to design and implement the strategy we have to first identify the priorities for such husbandry over the designated period of time, provide a work plan and identify the associated costs of each efforts. Through time these priorities may change and the plan should be flexible enough to meet these priorities.

An example of the initial approach was implemented in 2017 with the removal of the evergreen on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, limiting line of sight of the green from the tee, and, the removal of two spruce evergreens on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole to allow the oak to develop, planted to replace the original damaged by storms.

The Greens committee and staff have inspected the course and highlighted a number of trees which fall into the above categories. These works will be planned over the next 5 years and supplemented by a replanting programme of both existing and new hardwood trees, whilst keeping members informed.

It is generally agreed that when major works are to be carried out, for example to the bunkers on any specific hole, this would be the time to carry out sympathetic planting and removal works with regard to trees. If three holes were tackled in any one year that would allow for tree management to be done on some cyclic basis every 5/6 years at each hole. The replenishment cycle should aim for an uneven distribution of age class throughout the course. The four age classes here would be over mature, mature, semi mature and young. It is important to ensure there is always more young trees than mature as they are the trees of the future. There will be an inherent rise in cost attached to planting mature trees.

Clearly where there are safety concerns with regard to trees, work would need to be carried out as appropriate. This could be dealt with by introducing a tree safety policy. We have already costed a tree safety survey and await the outcome of

budget discussion for 2018. However, this could consist of a walk round the site after any strong wind event to identify any hazards that have arisen such as hanging branches that must be removed immediately.

Some trees are deemed to have no future due to poor form, damage, stunted growth or are unsuitable, and should be removed sooner rather than later.

In general, it was found that there were a considerable number of conifers of various types round the course and some such as the Sitka spruce and Leylandii were not lending value to the landscape. Consideration should be given to their removal as part of the long-term management plan. In doing this the desired trees such as Oak, Elm, Ash and Lime and Chestnut will benefit greatly.

### **Types of trees recommended**

Silver Birch - Deep rooted, 25m to 30m in height when it reaches maturity, deciduous.

Oak -Deep rooted, 35m to 40m in height when mature, slow growing, deciduous.

Rowan- 10m to 15m in height when mature, quick growing, deciduous.

Beech - Deep rooted, 35m to 40m in height when mature, slow growing, not to be planted near greens and tees (sheds beech nuts in Autumn and in strong winds) deciduous.

Copper beech - to add colour to the course.

Elms - Deep rooted, 40m in height when mature, deciduous.

Cherry - Deep rooted, 10m to 20m in height when mature, blossoming the spring time adds colour to the course, deciduous.

Lime - Deep rooted, 35m to 40m in height when mature, deciduous.



## PLAN OF ACTION

### HOLE 1

Left hand side copse clearing out all dead wood, clearing Conifers that are damaged and trees that no longer have a life. Replant Oaks and Birch.

Limbing up trees on both sides of the fairway.



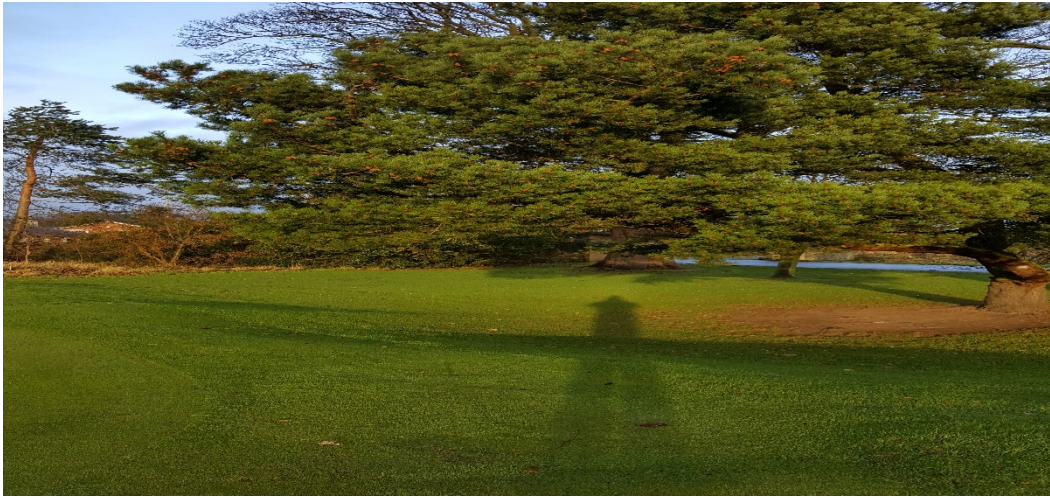
### HOLE 2

Back of medal tee clearance, Conifers that are damaged and no longer have a life, this will allow more air and light into the tee.





Right hand side of 2<sup>nd</sup> green, Conifer next to green limbed back as it is starting to affect the green.



Conifers that are damaged and no longer have a life cleared out. The second hole could do with new planting on the right-hand side by the road.



Back of second green transplant Beech and Cherry's onto the course this will allow the Oaks to flourish.



### HOLE 3

Tee area behind the fence, clear out up to the boundary wall and plant 7 new Lime trees.

Copses along the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, clearing out damaged conifers and trees that no longer have life.

Conifer that roots are showing, first copse LHS 7<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> (this has been getting more difficult to cut and there is also a risk to golfers hitting roots resulting in hand injuries and club breakage) Clear plantation and replant the area.



Right hand side clearing and thinning out.

### HOLE 4

Clear up any dead wood all along right hand side. Larch trees to the right-hand side of the green in woods to be removed (north east winds affect these trees - drop pine needles on the green and affect PH of the soil in the green giving us problems).

Left hand side between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> - replanting in the gaps.



Behind 4<sup>th</sup> green - clear out brambles etc. Plant Acers and White Birch (suggest adding more Rhododendrons to add more colour at the back of the green).

## HOLE 5

Tidy up the wall area at medal tee. Left hand side - new planting in gaps with Silver Birch. Replant Oaks from the right-hand side of green onto the course. Right hand side and 12<sup>th</sup> Left hand side winter tee. Clear Evergreens to allow deciduous development.

## HOLE 6

Clear overhanging branches along the out of bounds wall. Limbing up branches on left hand side fairway. Mature Cherry - Left hand side past 7<sup>th</sup> winter tee - diseased with Honey fungus. Potentially isolate.

## HOLE 7

Site clearance on the right-hand side of the tee, clearing out dead wood and Conifers that are damaged. Top off Leylandii next to 7<sup>th</sup> lady's tee, to allow more winter sun shine into the green. Some limited tree planting in the area (we don't want to make it to dense wood land as we won't to have as much air and sun light in the 6<sup>th</sup> green and 7<sup>th</sup> tees)



Copse on Left hand side of corner 7<sup>th</sup> fairway - removal of Conifers and roots that are giving us problems. (as mentioned in hole 3)

Any dead wood further along the fairway removed.





Example of Conifer along the side of the seventh fairway that should come out.

## HOLE 8

Leylandii removal behind the 8<sup>th</sup> tee this will allow the Oak trees more room to flourish it will also help with air and light into the tee. 10 Oaks here of which only 2-3 will survive. Replant healthy trees where possible.



Copse at back of 7<sup>th</sup> green up to the 8<sup>th</sup> tee clearing out more of the Leylandii removing dead wood and general tidy up the area. Leylandii should be removed to allow light and growth potential to deciduous population within.





General tidy up trees on both sides of the fairway.

## HOLE 9

Medal tee thinning out right around tee. Very large Poplar trees. These are “greedy feeders” with extensive root systems which compete for any moisture and prone to wind damage.

Spruce conifers to the left of the tee are affecting the tee. In the middle of the copse there is a Whitebeam tree. Spruce felling allowing the Whitebeam to fill out and new plantings made.

Clearing right hand side of the hole general tidy up unsightly area.



Plant new trees in gaps down left-hand side.





Remove Leylandii on left hand side of green, damaging both Copper Beeches. This tree was damaged a few year ago and should have been taken out then.

## HOLE 10

Target planting area to fill gaps on left hand side of fairway with various species of trees.

10th fairway at about the 150-yard mark - example of three trees in close proximity to each other. There is only room for one tree to grow to its full potential thus two should be removed. There are two poplars in this area and they should be removed as well.





In fact, there are several examples of small copses, originally planted with several trees to see which ones would survive. Many of these should be thinned or replanted. A perfect example is to the rear east of 11th medal tee where there are three young Oak in need of replanting. Transplant some of the Oaks that are planted too close together.



Remove some of the Poplar trees as these are prone to wind damage, have extensive shallow root system that compete for moisture.

Clear out the back off 10<sup>th</sup> green, removal of Elderberry and any dead wood.



Blue line indicating Poplars, green area clearance.



## HOLE 11

General tidy up on both sides of the fairway.

Large Sycamore at the back of the 11<sup>th</sup> green is now a pollard and made safe. We will monitor the tree over the next few years for any further work needed.



## HOLE 12

Clearing both sides of the fairway, Dogwood to be thinned out any Conifers that need taken down.



View from the tee indicating areas that need thinned out.

Back of 12<sup>th</sup> green thinned out allowing more air and sun light into the green.



Clear out old Conifers that have been lying on the ground. Replant with Beeches and Limes.



Left hand side 12<sup>th</sup> green old Conifers.



## HOLE 13

Clearing out some of the Conifers that are starting to affect the line of the tee to green.



View from the 13<sup>th</sup> tee.

## HOLE 14

Clearing out evergreens Left hand side to allow Sweet Chestnut population to develop.  
Keeping an eye on the old Sycamore on the corner of the dog leg.



Replant one of the Oaks from the Right-hand side of the fairway and relocate.

## HOLE 15

Replanting on both sides of the fairway. More decorative along hedge - White Birch.

Remove old damaged Conifers at back of the green.



Back of 15<sup>th</sup> green.

Hedge all along the length of the hole trimmed back once a year.

## HOLE 16

Clear out Leylandii that are around the teeing area. These are affecting the levels of the tee with their shallow rooting system.



16<sup>th</sup> tee - Thinning out conifer copses and remove broken trees on left hand side of the green.



## HOLE 17

17h green is now being limited in light and heat throughout the winter period and increasingly wet. Some disease on Right-hand side. Clear conifers in copse at rear of green. Thinning out trees on both sides of the fairway all the way down to the green.



17<sup>th</sup> Green 12<sup>th</sup> January 1pm



17<sup>th</sup> Green Exit (enclosed Ash.)



Rear 17th Green (Enclosed Lime) Absence of heat and light.

## HOLE 18

Remove conifers on 18<sup>th</sup> Medal tee to allow Ash and Limes to develop. Will allow much more light and heat to 17<sup>th</sup> green. Replanting on either sides and also filling gaps on 18<sup>th</sup> Fairway.



Remove Poplar tree on out of bounds ditch. This tree is leaning over at an angle, and unstable in a wind. Beginning to uproot and will damage adjacent deciduous tree if it blows over. Potential risk to golfers and staff.



18<sup>th</sup> out of bounds ditch.

Plant new trees on 18<sup>th</sup> fairway - Right hand side copse, and Left-hand Side Broken Evergreen, to provide future shape and definition.

## Summary

There has been very little management of the evergreen population on the course and as a result many Leylandii, and similar have outgrown their usefulness, hindering the growth of our more indigenous and historic plantings.

We have proposed a plan to manage the trees over a 5-year timeframe and are requesting a New Plant Budget for approximately £2000 per annum but only used as required. This CAPEX will be applied for at the beginning of each year. The prime planting time for trees is January-February for bare root specimens. Outside that period trees generally require a root ball base, which becomes more expensive. The 2018 plans for tree removal have been published in Greens over the last months of the season and also in the Winter Programme. The remaining trees marked for removal or replanting will be reported in subsequent Greens reports for consideration by and comments from the members, taking place over the next 5 years.

Please do pass all comments to [Greensconvener@dunfermlinegolfclub.com](mailto:Greensconvener@dunfermlinegolfclub.com) for consideration.