

HELSEBY GOLF CLUB

GREEN POLICY DOCUMENT

Objectives

The primary objective is to provide a course which presents a fair test to golfers of all abilities, is aesthetically attractive, ecologically sensitive, and which is steadily improved in quality.

Another important objective is to provide the members with year round golf, playing off grass tees and on the main greens during the winter months, providing it is not to the detriment of the long term health and condition of the course.

Introduction

This policy document defines the management principles which will be applied to the golf course and surrounds at Helsby Golf Club and which have been approved by the management committee on behalf of the membership.

The purpose of the document is to record current practices adopted by the greens committee to enable continuity of approach by successive committees and to provide a plan for the continued improvement and development of the course.

This is a working document, owned by the Greens Committee. It will be reviewed and amended as and when necessary, in accordance with changing resources, usage and technical advances. All changes will be communicated to the membership through normal channels and a copy of the up to date version will be available in the clubhouse. Changes made during the year will, in any case, be notified to the members at the AGM.

One of the principle roles of the Green Committee and the Green Staff is to ensure that the course creates an outstanding visual experience. In order to achieve this, and maintain the course as a serious golf challenge, all aspects of the course play an important part such as trees, ponds, copses and areas of rough together with bunkers.

It will be permissible for groups of members to carry out appropriate work approved by the Head Greenkeeper and Greens Committee.

Environmental Management is a key requirement of all golf courses. Waste from the work on the course will be recycled wherever possible eg. cores will be stored on the course and reused as topsoil whenever possible, old turf will be used to repair GUR, etc.. Waste management principles will be applied when washing down machinery and all areas of the golf course maintenance will be planned to demonstrate our commitment to environmental issues.

Annual Programme

Historically, the main focus of work carried out by the green staff from April to October has been the preparation and presentation of the golf course and therefore major project work such as green rebuilding and drainage installation has been undertaken during the winter months. In the main this policy will continue.

The reports prepared by Creative Course Design and the STRI (Appendices A & B) will form the basis of the development plans to be submitted to members. It is not considered practical to submit a development plan spanning a number of years due to the difficulty in projecting the availability of resources and also the vagaries of the weather. It will therefore be the responsibility of the Chairman of Green to present to the members the Annual Programme together with the proposed purchase of equipment over £3k in value. The presentation will be prioritised and budgeted and, of necessity, be ambitious, so that any work not undertaken can be carried forward into the following years programme.

The Green Policy Document

This document will also show each process used to achieve the objectives. It will also be structured with referenced documents showing dates and version numbers. All reference to cutting heights, frequency of cutting, slitting, tining, etc. will be dependent on the weather conditions.

The contents are:-

1. Rules and Guidelines
2. Staff and Training
3. Finance
4. Greens & Surrounds
5. Tees
6. Fairways & Rough
7. Bunkers
8. Ponds
9. Trees
10. Drainage & Ditches.
11. Paths
12. Course boundaries
13. Machinery & Maintenance
14. Appendices
 - A. Creative Course Design Report – March 2008
 - B. STRI – March 2008
 - C. Arborists Report 1993