

February 2018

Bishopswood Golf Ltd 5 year Plan

Over the past five years and in response to my previous 5 year plan considerable investment has been directed towards the golf course, with the purchase of new equipment, annual agronomy reports and fertilizer, pesticides and turf hardener programs. We have also introduced an aerating program for the greens, and introduced over 80 tonnes of sand to them per annum.

This document sets out what actions are required to develop and enhance the golfers experience at Bishopswood all within the budgeted restraints that we have to operate under.

Greens

We must continue with our current tining and top dressing and introduce 100% sand whenever possible, with a minimum of 80 tonnes added per annum.

Actions

- Carry out a deep scarification of the surfaces twice a year
- Monthly micro tining during the growing season
- Over seed with bent grasses
- Top dress with 100% sand
- Utilise Headland Program
- Hollow tine Autumn
- Annual soil analysis
- Verti-cut twice monthly throughout growing season
- Cut at heights between 3mm(summer) and 5mm(winter)

Tees

The teeing grounds are poor with regards to level surfaces and will require re-turfing after top soil has been added. There is currently no irrigation to any of the teeing grounds (except 1st hole) and none is planned. New alternative tees should be viewed as a positive approach to enhancing golf at Bishopswood but not a prerequisite.

Actions

- Verti- drain annually
- Verti-cut in season at least once a month
- Top dress with 80-20 mix
- Over seed spring and autumn
- View course design-layout
- Source stronger seed for weaker tees with shade 5th and 8th

Aprons-Approaches

These areas have improved over the past twelve months with regular verti cutting and extending the green fertilizer program to take approaches in.

We must continue to verti- cut monthly during the growing season to remove thatch and top dress wherever possible.

Actions

- Tine regularly
- Top dress with 100% sand
- Over seed annually
- Fertilize program
- Re shape with new cutting lines
- Manage Course traffic
- Verti -cut monthly in growing season

Fairways

The grass coverage overall is good, but there are areas that require new drainage, and over seeding. It is important to review cutting regimes annually to ensure that the customer expectations are enhanced. There is an opportunity to redesign the view of the fairways with new cutting lines.

Actions

- Verti –drain annually
- New Drainage to be introduced
- Spray for weeds annually
- Spray fairways with a worm cast suppressant annually(when available)
- Re shape with new cutting lines
- Cut to a height of 15mm

Bunkers

The bunkers have literally been edged annually over a long period of years. This will take a considerable amount of time due to costs and manpower involved to rectify. A detailed plan of action highlighting individual holes and the bunker replacement required is at the end of this report

Any short term work should be carried out quickly with a minimal cost

Actions

- Carry out a hole by hole analysis of each bunker
- Re design where necessary
- Re build/remove
- Annual maintenance with new sand replacement
- Recognised sand as fortacrete

Rough

As per the fairways show depth, but lie very wet throughout the winter and spring. There is an opportunity to re shape as per the fairways

Actions

- Two heights of cut primary and secondary, these are cut at primary =36mm and secondary=60mm
- New drainage

Hazards

There is a need for all ditches and ponds to be cleared to allow flow of water through the course, and this now is in the maintenance program for the greenstaff.

Actions

- Continued clearance of all pond weed
- Clear pond edges of bushes and trees
- Clear all ditches twice annually
- Edge all ditches

Plantations

All are very heavily planted, with trees very close together. These areas are particularly difficult to manage with the manpower in place and from the golfers prospective are areas that slow play down. There are also a number of trees that are healthy species that need to be encouraged to grow with the removal of others

Actions

- Clear out all plantations that are recognised as in play
- Remove trees that are inhibiting finer species
- Cut all lower branch limbs to 2-3 metres so as to allow air to flow
- Develop ground covering with rough grasses that can be maintained with machinery
- Assist golfer in finding balls thus allowing the speed of play to be enhanced
- Each hole to assessed with regard to playability and assist in tree clearance

Maintenance Sheds

Excellent facilities now in place.

Actions

- Review security CCTV
- Audit mess room monthly
- Audit workshop monthly
- New external drainage to be installed

Equipment

Considerable investment has been made to replace machinery and we need to continue this so that the course can remain in good condition for the seasons.

Actions

- Service and maintenance documentation currently in place to be reviewed

A 5-10 year course machinery replacement program is in place and put into the budgets annually

Driving Range

This area has very heavy soil and requires drainage at the bottom end near to the bays. The outfield needs to be encouraged to have a fairway impression with sharp clean targets.

Actions

- New mats exchanged annually
- New Bishopswood Golf balls whenever required
- New drainage
- Paint bays
- Review lighting

Course Furniture

Actions

- One course supplier of ball washers and bins
- Tee divot boxes
- New flags and poles annually
- New bunker rakes
- One bin, washer, per hole
- Sponsorship of hole signs

In addition to the planned works above, I have now prepared a hole by hole analysis. Items below are all subject to operational budgets etc.

1st

- Review conifers on left side to lower in height and trim
- Extend path from tee to approach
- Remove old green from front left

2nd

- Alternative tee
- Assess trees in plantations
- Drainage on lower half of fairway
- New bunkering on left hand side with removal of one to create run off
- Rebuild bunker on right hand side

3rd

- Extend tee at rear
- New drainage on lower half of fairway and near ladies tees
- Introduce fairway bunker on right hand side 2nd shot
- Assess trees in plantations

4th

- Extend teeing ground
- Removal of a number of trees surrounding reservoir area
- Drainage on lower half of fairway
- Rebuild greenside bunkers
- Develop approach area
- Assess trees in plantations

5th

- Reshape green back to ditch at the front
- Remove one of the bunkers on the right side and develop run off area and rebuild other
- Clear all bracken to left of green
- Remove trees around green to encourage stronger growth to left side of green and surround
- Review grass seed used on teeing area

6th

- Drainage in middle section of the hole
- New pipe under fairway larger bore and widen ditch on left side
- Rebuild bunker on left side, remove one of the bunkers on right and create run off
- Assess plantation between 6th and 7th holes

7th

- Enlarge teeing ground
- Remove trees surrounding teeing area on left and to rear
- New pipe under fairway larger bore
- Rebuild bunker on right hand side of green
- Assess trees

8th

- Re plant area from tee to ditch
- New plantation on right hand side 50yds from green
- New bunkering
- Review grass seed used on teeing area

9th

- Enlarge teeing ground
- Develop approach area

Other

- New turf nursery
- Rebuild putting green
- Waste and rubbish area to be created for course clearance/bonfires

Ecology

The course has many types of fauna and encourages wildlife. The course developments should always take this into consideration and alternative areas should be provided