

Greens Committee meeting minutes – 12.07.2022

Present: Doug Nichols (DN)

Craig James (CJ)

Conor Kinnerk (CK)

Bob Hanks (BH)

Dorian Ansel (DA)

Apologies: Ray Humphreys (RH)

Sonja Strutt (SS)

1. Welcome by Greens Director Doug Nichols.

2. Report by DN/DA on current course condition and work recently completed/in progress since last meeting.

- Drought conditions. Unfortunately parts of the course are burning off however by all accounts no where near as bad as other courses in the region.
- Plenty of work has been undertaken regarding tree maintenance/removal as required.
- Greens are running really well. Lots of praise from members and visitors from other courses.

3. Matters arising from last meeting(s).

a) Bunker improvements.

- Bob Hanks has completed an assessment of all 53 bunkers on the course. He has passed his findings to the Greens Staff to enable them to repair/improve as necessary.

- In recent weeks, the Greens Staff have also adopted more of a hand raking approach rather than just using the machine. This gives them the opportunity to get a better understanding of the consistency, sand levels and condition of the bunkers.

- The Greenkeepers have also fitted a new blade to their rotavator machine which enables them to bring up some looser sand in the bunkers which have hardened over the years.

- The Greens Committee agreed that for their next meeting, they will start with a course walk to look at and discuss some of the bunkers and look at ways to improve them.

b) Staff numbers

- Within the last few weeks, Verity has left the club as a member of Greens Staff. For the time being, the Greens Staff can manage with the numbers they have got, partly due to one of the part time Green Keepers agreeing to do additional days for the summer months.

- The club will look to recruit a new Greenkeeper in October

c) Plants on men's 1st tee

- The planters are still over at the Greenkeepers shed and will be filled with new plants when time allows.

d) 2nd tee area

- In the near future, the hedge in the middle of the 2nd tee area will be coming out as previously discussed. (This is the hedge that separates the current yellow and red tees from the area to the right that is used as a temporary tee).

4. A.O.B

DA/DN – The approach to the 6th green is a project that the Greenkeepers would really like to do this year. As previously discussed, several meetings ago, the 6th green is nearly always a temporary green in the winter, purely down to the fact that the approach to the 6th green gets so wet and churned up. The 6th green is actually often perfectly playable however due to the approach; the green has to be on a temporary. Unfortunately this would mean the hole would be made shorter for a few months but if it not done, it will never be improved. The intention is to completely re-do the drainage, improve/reshape the 2 bunkers that are about 30 yards short of the green, level off and reseed the whole area (approx. 50 yards prior to the green, right up to the green). This work would ideally be started mid-September to give the area the greatest chance of recovering with some warmer weather still.

DN – The board agreed to the purchase of a ‘zero turn machine’ which enables cutting grass through the trees without damaging the trees. This means the tree areas can be a lot clearer, giving players more change of finding their ball (still with the trees to negotiate as obstacles) which in turn might speed up play.

CJ – discussed several points brought to his attention by fellow members over the past month or so:

- i. Some of the pin positions recently have been very close to the edge of the green, are they technically illegal pin positions? DA said Greenkeepers will look out for this in future.
- ii. Is there anything that can be done to replace old holes better? Or alternatively, is relief available should an old hole be on your line whilst putting. CJ then shared a photo he had been sent by a member showing a replaced hole with approx. 5-10mm gap around the edge, DA said unfortunately this will be due to shrinkage from the heat. CJ asked if any ‘fill’ could be placed in the sides to level off? DN suggested he will speak to Greens Staff about sanding the holes when replacing.
- iii. On several occasions, tee markers have not been aligned correctly with the hole. A recent example (photo shared to the committee) showed the 17th white tee markers aiming approx. 30 yards left of the 17th green. DA said he will discuss with Greens Staff to ensure they are correctly aligning the markers.
- iv. When tee markers are placed on the mats, can they be put at the front of the mat, otherwise technically players will be hitting from in front of the tee markers. This was the case in the men’s competition on Sunday 10th July when the mat had to be used for the 5th tee and the markers were in the middle of the mat, effectively making half the mat unusable. DA said they are supposed to be at the front of the mat so will discuss with the Greens Staff.

5. Next meeting – Thursday 11th August at 5pm