

Greens Committee Meeting Friday 22 Jan 2021, 15.00 (by Zoom)

Present

Allan Davies (AD) Chair, Steve Lloyd (SL) Course Manager, Andrew Longley (AL) Club Captain, Julie Saunders (JS) Ladies' Captain, Patrick McIlroy (PM) Club Vice Captain, Jill Piner (JP), Ladies' Vice Captain, Mike Sterry (MS) Chair of Handicaps and Competitions, Jill Brierly (JB), Bill Massey (BM), Mark Groves (MG), Paul Barker (PB) Professional

Minutes

1 Introductions

AD outlined the constituency of the Committee pointing out the broad representation of the committee and noted that the Seniors section might wish to nominate a representative for future meetings.

Action: AD

AD advised that this meeting will focus on the outcomes of the course walk and discussions about the natures of the terms of reference of the Committee and the updating of the Course Policy Document will dealt with in future meetings pending ongoing discussions by the Board.

2 Presentation by the Course Manager (SL) based on the Course walk undertaken 11.12.20 and updated yesterday.

SL identified key elements of the course walk for the purpose of the meeting and allowed for any other concerns arising out of the report to be taken after the presentation.

2.1 SL drew our attention to a potential solution to some of the access points which have become overly worn and often muddy. He gave examples of a range of portable bridges which allow golfing traffic to be moved on those occasions when weather conditions impact on the normal paths.

Action: PM to discuss further with SL re potential bridge types.

2.2 Consideration was given to relocating the Ladies' tee further forward on the 5th hole. This would give an improved angle for the ladies' tee shot as well as giving the shorter hitters a better chance of carrying the ball over the rough.

Concerns were expressed about the impact of golfers playing from the 8th tee but this was considered not to be an issue if all golfers were aware the presence of each other.

JB expressed concern about the hole being shorter. SL suggested a trialling of the relocation before any firm decision is made.

2.3 SL drew our attention to the potential of increasing the vistas on the course by careful tree management. He provided the committee with a number of visual examples including from the 4th fairway looking across the 11th fairway if certain trees were removed and, similarly, looking east from the 4th fairway, the removal of two conifers adjacent to the 6th tee would provide views across the Seven Valley.

PM raised the matter of the life expectancy of the trees in question as he presumed they were nearing the end of their lives. SL confirmed this. Reference was also made about the appropriateness of leylandii trees on parkland courses. SL pointed out that those on the 12th hole were now very

large and the one on the right of the fairway was not serving as protection of the green anymore as the oak trees around the green were fulfilling that purpose. MG asked if there was any intention of replacing these trees. SL explained that we could replace these trees once they were removed but what type of tree to replace them with would need to be considered.

SL directed our attention to the scrub on the left of the 15th fairway, pointing out that this was brash that had been allowed to encroach over time. By removing it both the view across the 17th fairway would be revealed along with one or two trees within the brash that had been planted in commemoration of members or family.

AD suggested that, given the number of issues in question, we might develop a policy and rationale for tree management around the course that would help members understand why we would wish to take some trees out.

Action: AD and SL to outline a tree policy for consideration by the Committee.

2.4 Pathways

The development of pathways, their usefulness and costings were considered.

SL outlined a proposal to reroute the pathway on the 7th hole to avoid the access issues created above the green and the route to the next hole.

MG raised the issue of the costings of the materials and the constant replacement of the material following bad weather. He suggested that more substantial and more permanent materials might prove to be more cost effective in the longer term.

Action: SL and MG to produce a document for discussion on this matter.

2.5 Distance markers

SL raised the usefulness of the upright 150yard distance markers now that other methods of judging distances were available. He suggested that the fairway discs were just as useful. He pointed out that, by permanently removing them, the green staff would be able to complete the mowing of the fairways much more quickly and thus speed up play on mowing days. Currently, the green staff have to dismount from the mowers, remove the markers, cut the grass and then replace the markers so taking up more time than is necessary.

JB expressed a concern that maybe the ladies utilise the markers more than the men and don't rely solely on distance measuring devices for judgement. The markers provided a quick guide and were easier to see than the discs. There was much sympathy expressed for this view.

Action: SL to set up a trial using 2 white 150 discs instead of the blue posts and share a video of what it looks like to the committee on the what's app group for their opinion.

2.6

New bunker on the chipping green

SL proposed that a new bunker should be established on the chipping green and provided a visual example of its nature and location. It would be designed more of a pot bunker to prevent wayward shots beyond the green. It would be of low cost. The Committee were in support of this.

Action: SL to build new bunker on the chipping green.

2.7 Other items arising from the course walk report

2.7.1 JS reported that she had received a letter of concern from one of the ladies about the state of the public footpath between 6th and 9th fairways.

Action: Green staff to fill in any potholes now and, subsequently, this path can be reviewed as part of the pathway improvement discussion.

AD pointed out to the Committee that SL and AD have met with Norman Nimmo Smith, who is responsible for the parish's public footpaths, in the past and found him very helpful.

Action: AD/SL will make contact with NNS to investigate a way forward.

2.7.2 Signage on the course. A number of members felt that the signage on the course could be improved. AD said that he had already raised these matters particularly in relation to health and safety matters and issues around the club's position in the event of any injury claims. It was suggested that Chis Hardy, who is a H&S professional and has supported the club and its staff in all aspects of H&S, should be approached to advise on this.

Action: AD to invite RP and himself to have discussions re the issues with CH.

2.2.3 JP raised the matter of the wet area on the left of the 7th fairway.

SL explained that this is an area of the course that needs tree removal and possibly a new pond digging out to collect the ground water. This is a long-term project that needs some more planning work for the committee to look at.

Action: 7th Fairway plans to be on next agenda

2.2.4 Irrigation of the tees.

MG asked about the long-term plans to irrigate the rest of the tees.

Action: SL to provide plans and costing for the committee to understand what is needed as well as costs.

2.2.5 Greens

PB wanted to know when the project work to complete the drainage on the greens will continue. SL explained that this was an ongoing project that will depend on resources. SL agreed that this was an important project to get back on track with 11 greens still needing to be drained asap.

Action: Further discussion at next Committee meeting.

2.2.6 Machinery

PM pointed out that there should be a Machinery policy attached to a coherent long-term policy for machinery replacement. The Committee agreed with this and resolved to develop the policy over the coming months.

Action: AD/SL/PM to outline process for policy development.