Members.

As many of you know, a few weeks ago members of the golf sub-committee walked the course with the head green keeper to look at and identify many of the issues brought up by members and ourselves. The items identified for attention were listed hole by hole. We intend to do this on a regular basis. On this initial walk we noted everything that needed urgent attention are listed below. We cannot do it all at once but we are starting as of now. The more invasive works will begin when the season is over so as not to disrupt play.

* All worn areas identified are to be hollow tined, top dressed and seeded. If it’s a larger area this will be re turfed
* The general dress and appearance to be addressed e.g. brambles and nettles
* The rough will be reduced from 35mm to 30mm. Fairways will be reduced from 14mm to 12mm next summer, this will be monitored as a hot dry spell will burn the fairways at 12mm. Fairways and rough are currently cut early in the week to allow for weather and machinery issues, there will now be an extra cut later in the week where conditions permit
* The rough on the back of the bunkers will be cut down and looked at again next year
* The bunkers on the four par 3s will be redone at the seasons end, the drains will be cleared out and the base will be done same as the new bunkers on 9 and 18 which have held up better from the continual torrential downpours we have had which have compacted and washed away the sand. There will be a programme put in place to complete the rest of the bunkers in the near future
* The area between the 3rd tee to the 16th green has been highlighted as a danger area by some members due to the proximity of a number of tees and greens. This has not been highlighted in our annual H&S report but if members could report any near misses or strikes we will be able to monitor it and take any necessary action
* The tees have all suffered this year due to the amount of footfall following the lockdown restrictions being lifted so we will be limiting use during winter and addressing them to aid their recovery
* Worm casts this year have become an issue and are quite prevalent throughout the course. This is due to new legal restrictions allowing the use of chemicals. There is a new soil conditioner new on the market and we have some on order and waiting for delivery
* All path ends will be given more definition and be re turfed where the red gravel has spread
* The putting green will be addressed and given a spruce up with some artificial turf fitted at the far end which will act as a trolley park and chipping area, plants will be planted around the outer edge to bring a bit of colour
* The outer hedge to the main road to be cut down to a more manageable height as the greens staff H&S has to be monitored as they cut it from the back of a trailer, this will also improve the aesthetics from the road when approaching the club entrance
* The hedge to the rear of the 18th green lowered slightly to enable golfers to see anyone on the green or 10th tee, this will also take away the feeling of walking through a tunnel to the 1st tee
* The worn areas to the side of the first tee adjacent to the path will be dug over and plants put in, this will also have a chain link fence and entrances made with hard wearing material
* The hexagonal path that was trialled at the side of the 2nd tee has not been very successful so will be removed and the area re turfed
* The wet area to the left of the 4th green will be raised to assist drainage and better drainage incorporated.
* In conjunction with the STRI report which was commissioned in 2016 the conifers around the green keepers sheds on the 2nd fairway and those at the side of the 3rd tee will be removed as they are not native to our course and are a H&S issue due to their height and have a weak root base. Any trees removed must be replaced with a more native species. We propose to put in established trees and shrubs to cover the views of the sheds and also bring a bit of colour to the course. These trees will be available for members to sponsor as memorial trees and further details will be published soon.
* The oak tree at the side of the 4th green and the 2 on the left of the fairway on the 15th are to be trimmed and dressed back as their encroachment on the course over the last few years has become a bit of an issue
* The drainage channels on the 14th will be re turfed in the next couple of weeks once the soil has settled
* 6th tee to be completed

The Greens committee will regularly update members on progress of works and we will endeavour to keep the course open as much as possible over winter. There will be restrictions on a number of holes but hopefully we won’t have the weather extremes we have had over the last few years.

We ask members to observe the points below for the benefit of all.

* Please do not take trolleys between bunkers and greens
* Repair pitch marks
* Replace divots
* Respect green staff while carrying out their role
* Rake bunkers
* It’s the responsibility of every member to police and remind their partners of all the above.

We will be doing everything possible to bring this course up to the standard that we would all like, and given time, we believe that we can achieve this. Not everything is covered here but we have it noted. Please use the Greens Suggestion box for any further suggestions and we will add these to the list if not already on it.

Please bear with us as it will take some time to do everything.

Thank you for your patience.

Chair of greens.