

Greens Committee Meeting Friday 26th Feb 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), Ron Gordon (RG), Paul Barker (PB) Professional
Apologies: Ryan Parfett (RP)

1 Introductions

AD welcomed Ron Gordon (RG), Seniors' Vice Captain as member of the Committee.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the previous meeting.

3 Actions from the previous meeting

1 AD to invite representative from Seniors Committee.

Ron Gordon, Seniors VC, has agreed to become a member of the Greens Committee.

2 PM to discuss portable bridges further with SL re potential bridge types.

This discussion is ongoing.

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

Tree Policy and Action plan section was circulated to committee. AD recommended that the Committee use the template to guide and record policy decisions relating to tree work. This was agreed.

4 SL and MG to produce a document on pathways for discussion on this matter.

MG presented an analysis of replacing/upgrading the current footpaths including overall costings as well as the purchasing of specialist machinery to effect ongoing repair to existing pathways. The full report is attached to these minutes.

Having considered the alternative cost implications using a variety of alternatives including asphalt, astroturf, resin-based and concrete materials, the Committee agreed that the current approach to pathways and their maintenance will continue until such time that the most appropriate approach to pathway construction and funding is identified.

Action: SL, MG and PM to investigate further materials, costings and recommendations to be presented at the next meeting for agreement and forward to the Board for approval.

5 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.

This is ongoing. A report will be available for the next meeting.

6 SL to build new bunker on the chipping green.

This will begin in March.

7 Green staff to fill in any potholes between 6th and 9th fairways now. Subsequently, this path can be reviewed as part of the pathway improvement discussion.
This will be undertaken just prior to members' return to golf.

8 AD/SL will make contact with Norman Nimmo Smith, the Malvern Wells Parish Paths Warden, to investigate a way forward with our public footpaths.
Contact to be made before next meeting.

9 AD to invite RP and himself to have discussions re course signage with Chris Hardy.
RP is currently in discussion with an insurance company which includes these issues and will report at the next meeting.

10 Plans for 7th fairway to be on next meeting's agenda.
This is included as an agenda item

11 SL to provide plans and costing for the committee to understand what is needed for the irrigation of the tees, as well as costs.
It was agreed that this should now be a substantive item for the next meeting.

12 Discussion about the completion of the greens drainage project to be on next meeting's agenda.
It was agreed that this should be a substantive item for the next meeting.

13 AD/SL/PM to outline process for machinery policy development.
SL reported that he needed to provide costings for any new equipment and for consideration by AD and PM in the first instance prior to discussion with the Committee.
The Committee will then look towards making recommendation to the Board.

4 Agenda

a Course walk update

SL informed the Committee that he and the lady members of the Committee undertook their planned course walk, yesterday. The view from the group was that it was very worthwhile with the opportunity for the Ladies to raise specific questions relative to their section. No immediate action emerged but much information was shared.

Action: SL to arrange with RG a similar course walk for the seniors in the near future.

SL reported that most of the work identified in the original course walk has now been completed. There remain matters relating to tree and pathway management which will require further discussions by the Committee and these items will continue as items on the Course Walk document.

Action: SL to update course walk document as and when.

b Policy items arising from the Course Walk discussions

Tree policy

The Committee had received a communication from a member, Andy Wood, expressing concern about the removal of the apple trees on the 2nd hole. In particular, Mr Wood asked about the policy in relation to diseased trees and recommended that the policy should deal specifically

with the destination of these removed trees. Rather than process with a chipper, Mr Wood advises that the trees should be carried off whole to a part of the course where wildlife can benefit.

SL replied that, although the tree policy does not currently cover such a process, in practice this is largely what happens. He pointed out the stacked trees in the yard as well as others around the course. He also pointed out the tree stump arrangement on the 16th tee which is designed specifically as a wildlife habitat.

Action It was agreed that the policy could be more explicit in relation to broader environmental matters.

Pathways and drainage

The Committee received a communication from Mr David Flanagan relating to the pathways and the wet area to the left of the 7th fairway. AD explained to the Committee that Mr Flanagan had been very helpful in the past in advising on structural matters relating to the course. His observations on how the current pathways could be improved in regards their structure was welcomed by the Committee and his advice in this regard will be taken forward by SL and MG who have been reporting on the pathways.

Mr Flanagan also offered constructive advice in relation to strategies for dealing with the wet area on the left of the 7th. The Committee agreed to take these into consideration when formally addressing the problem in the near future.

Action: SL will review the problem with the Club's agronomist, Noel Mackenzie, in early Spring with the intention of outlining a plan of action for discussion by the Committee.

During the discussion of this item the Committee considered how it should respond to such communications in the future. The constructive advice in both letters was welcomed and MG suggested the Committee might wish to engage with memberships queries in a formalised and constructive way as in 'You asked, we answered'. AL emphasised the need for such communication and suggested a section on the Club's website for members' letters so that the membership as a whole can become aware of topics raised and read the responses from the Committee.

Action: AL to propose an on-line communications process via the website for responding to members' queries and suggestions, along with the 'rules of engagement' and other protocols.

5 Any other business

1. The Committee, since the beginning of the new year, has focused on contributing to and progressing the outcomes of the course walk. As a result, members are now accustomed to observing and reporting any matters relating to Greens that they feel need attention. In order to capture these observations as they arise, SL has recommended that Committee members utilise their WhatsApp to relate any observations they think he needs to be aware of as they walk the course. As the messages are relayed to all Committee members at the same time, it will enable real time debate to happen and issues to be addressed promptly where appropriate.

Action: Committee members are asked to make use of the Greens' WhatsApp to report any issues they feel the Course Manager needs to be aware of. SL will report back to the Committee on the effectiveness of the approach.

2. The Committee acknowledged that the focus this year has been about issues arising from the course walk. Although very important, these issues are largely visual and don't necessarily cover other aspect of the Greens Committee work. In particular, there are still outstanding matter relating to the completion of the irrigation system and the remaining greens' drainage which need to be updated. The Committee agreed that these two matters should be substantive items on the next agenda.

Action: Irrigation and drainage on next agenda.SL tp provide overview of the current position

Actions

PM to discuss portable bridges further with SL re potential bridge types.	PM/SL
SL, MG and PM to investigate further materials, costings and recommendations to be presented at the next meeting for agreement and forward to the Board for approval.	SL/MG/PM
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.	SL
SL to build new bunker on the chipping green.	SL
Green staff to fill in any potholes between 6 th and 9 th fairways now.	SL
AD/SL will make contact with Norman Nimmo Smith	AD/SL
AD/SL/PM to outline process for machinery policy development.	SL/AD/PM
<i>From this meeting</i>	
SL to arrange with RG a similar course walk for the seniors in the near future.	SL/RG
SL to provide course walk update	SL
Make tree policy more explicit in relation to broader environmental matters.	AD/SL/PM
AL to propose an on-line communications process via the website for responding to members' queries and suggestions, along with the 'rules of engagement' and other protocols.	AL
SL will review the 7 th fairway wet area problems with the Club's agronomist, Noel Mackenzie, in early Spring with the intention of outlining a plan of action for discussion by the Committee.	SL/MG
Committee members are asked to make use of the Greens' WhatsApp to report any issues they feel the Course Manager needs to be aware of. SL will report back to the Committee on the effectiveness of the approach.	Committee/SL
Irrigation and drainage on next agenda.SL tp provide overview of the current position	AD

Next meeting: March 26th, 2021 at 15.00