

RCGC Golf Course development plan.

Robert Brown

Over the last year the RCGC Course and GC Development Committee have been working with Howard and William Swan of Swan Golf Designs, this has resulted in an improvement and renovation plan for Rowlands Castle Golf Course.

An Analysis of the Golf Course has been done taking into account.

1. The Layout of the Course - length, variety, balance and challenge
2. An Assessment of Safety
3. The Components of the Golf Course
 - Greens-size, shape, contour
 - Tees-location, size, maintainability
 - Bunkering-location, strategy
4. Practice Facilities
5. Landscape Features - Trees and Woodland
6. Field Drainage
7. Irrigation and Water Management
8. Golf Traffic Movement
9. Presentation Aspects

Recommendations

1. Design Revisions
2. Improvements in Safety - holes 2 and 13
3. Greens Renovation
4. Teeing Improvements
5. Revising The Bunkering Strategy
6. Hole-by Hole Improvements
7. Practice Facilities
8. Presentational Considerations

A decision was made by both the RCGC Development and RCGC Course Committees to make a start on the Golf Course Improvements this year, choosing the 14th hole.

Recommendations for the 14th include the following.

Phase 1

Cutback Woodland on the right-hand side of the carry to allow a clear view of the Green and surrounding area. This work to be carried out by our Green Staff

Phase 2

Re-build and reposition Bunkers using rubber bunker liner, re shape the area surrounding the Green. This work to be carried out by M J Abbott Golf Construction.

Due to the current uncertainty because of the COVID 19 Pandemic it was decided to carry out **Phase 1** of the project. We all hope the extra funds will be available very soon so that we can continue to improve not just the 14th but other aspects highlighted by the Course Architects.

During this recent lockdown Kevin, Dave, Harvey, Paul and Graeme made a start to **Phase 1** of the project, this work has been done within the reduced 2020s Course Budget.

The undergrowth has been cleared, both poor specimen and dangerous trees have been removed exposing several beautiful Beech Trees. The Green and surrounding area is also clearly visible. Advice was taken from a local Tree Officer, Forestry Commission guidelines were also followed.

See photos below for before and after the work being carried out.

