

# WEST END GOLF CLUB

## Hole by Hole Review

### February 2021

#### **HOLE 1 – Par 3    Index 15    B 122   W 122   Y 113   R 106**

*The West End website says: “The 1<sup>st</sup> hole is a short par 3 with bunkers protecting the green from errant shots short and on both sides. The safer shot is to a banked backstop but this will leave a tricky putt or chip down the green”. What is an unexciting start to the round for most and a terrifying one for some, can be enhanced by employing the principles for running golf, thus providing a fair challenge for all abilities. Removing the front bunker would be a great start.*

#### **GREEN**

The raised green and fairway approach give the hole the potential for a classic links hole. To achieve this, the approach will be cut short all the way from pond to green and the entrance to the green widened as much as possible to allow poorly struck shots to bounce left or right. The recommendation is for the fringes and existing hollows to the left and right to be cut to fairway length to allow balls to run off the green into collection areas. The raised nature of the green which runs from back to front demands an accurate shot; too long will roll off back left; too short will not reach the green and may even roll further left or right unless the shot is aimed straight towards the middle of the green. The fringes will be cut to fairway level.

#### **BUNKERS**

The greenside bunker edges are crumbling and have moved nearer to the putting surface and are in need of repair.

1. The front left greenside bunker to be reduced in size and the grass surrounds cut to fairway length.
2. The front right bunker will also be reduced in size and grass surrounds cut to fairway length.
3. The bunker which currently sits between the pond and the green will be grassed over as it serves no purpose as a hazard other than to penalise the bad shot of a less accomplished golfer. Returning it to be a part of the fairway approach to the green will fulfil the principle of running golf, reduce maintenance costs and also create more space for a better winter green.

#### **TEE**

An excellent flat and large teeing ground – no changes required.

#### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**To create a more aesthetic look to the green as viewed from the tee and to make it fairer for less accomplished players. The recommended changes make better use of the raised green’s natural characteristics by creating a classic heathland links hole and at the same time making it fairer by removing the unnecessary bunker in the middle of the approach to the green. An additional benefit is that the changes around the green will encourage a wider variety of shots which can now be played onto the green, rather than the predictable wedge shot from the fringe as is invariably the case at present.**

## **HOLE 2 Par 4 Index 5 B 434 W 434 Y 425 R 389**

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hole has the potential to be an excellent example of heathland links with a fast running fairway but is currently compromised by trees on the left of the tee and along the left hand side of the fairway. The tee shot for the less accomplished player is also highly compromised by the clump of trees on the right of the fairway and the banking in the left rough just past the lump of trees is an additional unwanted obstruction. This combination has become an unfair hazard over time for short hitters. Conversely, this does not inconvenience better and stronger players, who enjoy the luxury of hitting high tee shots into a very generous and wide fairway. This hole would originally have been a gentle right to left dog-leg and it would benefit from being returned to that shape.*

### **TEES**

1. Trimming tree branches around the men's tee would improve the surface by allowing more sunlight onto turf. By doing so, the tee would also become wider in terms of a more generous area where a tee shot can be played from, reducing the stress on the turf caused by having to use small areas as at present.
2. The Ladies tee to be widened and lengthened.

### **FAIRWAY**

3. The fairway will be brought back as near as possible to the front tee.
4. The clump of trees on the right in front of the tees will be removed entirely.
5. The fairway will be cut further to the right to create more of a dogleg, bringing the fairway bunker on the right more into play for the better player.
6. The approach to the entrance of the green will be widened and cut to fairway length to enable running shots to be played from either side of the fairway.

### **BUNKERS**

7. One result of moving the fairway further right at driving distance is that the fairway bunker will now be on the right hand side of the fairway and not marooned in the rough. Grass in front of the bunker will be cut to fairway level to collect the less than accurate tee shot. The challenge for the Tiger is to marry accuracy with length.
8. The right greenside bunker suffers from drainage problems. It will be reduced in size and designed to challenge the running shot by bringing it forward and ensuring the entrance to the bunker is cut to fairway length.

### **GREEN**

9. Fringe at the back of the green to be left as semi-rough to protect the 15<sup>th</sup> green
10. Fringes to left and right to be widened and cut to fairway length

### **APPROACHES**

Heather area to left of the green to be weeded and small shrubs and trees removed to encourage growth.

### **TREES**

11. Branch trimming around the men's tee to let in more air and sunshine
12. Branch trimming along the first section on the left from the tees
13. Removal of clump of trees on the right of the fairway

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> plays like a heathland links with a running fairway and heather on the left approaching the green. Bringing the fairway back nearer to the tees and making it wider on the left and removing the clump of trees on the right in front of the tees will make the hole more playable and enjoyable for the less accomplished and short hitters. At the same time, the fairway will be narrowed further down the fairway towards the fairway bunker which will then be in the right hand side of the fairway to challenge the better golfer, as befits a stroke index of 5.**

## **HOLE 3      Index 1      Par 4      B 434      W 434      Y 425      R 389**

*This a good heathland links hole with a fast running fairway, raised green and heather areas. It can be improved further to emphasise its heathland heritage, while at the same time making the challenge proportionate for all levels of ability, thereby increasing the enjoyment for all. The improvements recommended include widening the range for tee shots by thinning the trees on the left of the tee, bringing the fairway back as far as possible to the teeing ground, removing the banking in the rough on the left of the existing fairway, improving the fairway bunkering and making fuller use of the existing hollows and swales around the raised green.*

### **TEES**

The men's tee is compromised by lack of sunlight and by encroaching trees on the left, particularly when the tee boxes are placed on the area on the left of the tee. Tee shots from the forward tees are confronted with bushes and shrubs growing in the heather immediately in front of the tee.

1. Trees around the tees will be thinned to allow sunlight onto the turf
2. Several trees which currently block tee shots from the left of the teeing area be removed.
3. Tee will be extended.

### **FAIRWAY**

4. The fairway will be brought nearer to the forward tee and made wider at the start.
5. The hump in the left rough will be removed.
6. The entrance to the green will be widened to fairway length to allow running approach shots from both sides of the fairway.

### **BUNKERS**

7. The fairway bunker will be made smaller and will become part of the fairway, with grass surrounds cut to fairway length. The back of the bunker will be left as a combination of longer rough and planted heather.
8. The right greenside bunker will be made smaller and brought forward, to demand greater accuracy for a running shot from the right hand side of the fairway. It will also solve the existing problem of a wet area in the hollow at the front of the green by replacing it with the new, smaller bunker.
9. The left greenside bunker will be made smaller and surrounds cut to fairway level.

### **GREEN**

The green tilts from back to front and back left to front right. It has natural hollows and swales on the left and back and being raised, lends itself to its fringes and hollows being cut to fairway length, thus introducing a more interesting challenge and choice of shot. To accommodate full use of the hollows at the back of the green, the pines and shrubs which have been allowed to take root and grow will be removed, apart from the birch tree, increasing much needed sunlight onto the green.

### **TREE MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance is required on left from the tee and behind the green, behind the tee and cleared out in the area to the right of the tee and alongside 8<sup>th</sup> tee.

### **HEATHER**

The large area of heather in front of the forward 3<sup>rd</sup> tee requires maintenance, including the removal of all shrubs, small trees and bushes, long grass and weeds. This is necessary to protect the existing heather and to encourage further growth. The result will add much natural beauty to the hole.

#### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The proposed improvements will enhance an already excellent and challenging hole and create a visual and practical illustration of what a Stroke Index 1 on a heathland links should look and play like. Addressing the issues from the tee will make the hole fairer for the less accomplished golfer. The tee shot for the Tiger is relatively risk free – returning the “fairway” bunker back to the fairway will act as a new challenge, increased by accentuating the dog-leg nature of the hole. The main visual and practical improvements involve creating shaved fringes and hollows around what is naturally a classic links green and improving the bunkering, encouraging heather growth around the tees and clearing away braches, trees and shrubs which unfairly hamper play for golfers of all abilities.

## **Hole 4 Par 3 Index 9 B 161 W 161 Y 152 R 120**

*This is a challenging par 3, due in part to a prevailing wind which is left to right and against, while the trees in fairway left and the bunkers short of the green only inconvenience the lesser golfer. It is however an excellent hole and will be enhanced by better use of the fringes around the green, by making them wider, and using the hollows and swales. Removal of the bunkers short of the green, which are largely redundant, will reduce maintenance costs and better accommodate an accurate running shot for the less-accomplished golfer.*

### **TEES**

The left hand side of the men's tees cannot be used in all fairness because of the clump of trees on the left of the fairway. This obstruction is accentuated more often than not by a left to right prevailing wind. The tee will be extended further to the right. The ladies tee will be enlarged to provide more teeing space.

### **FAIRWAY**

The ground between tee and green will be maintained at fairway height and the bunkers in the fairway short of the green will be removed. These bunkers do not fulfil any purpose other than to penalise less accomplished players. They do not direct play and they are poor examples of bunkers in any case. A further benefit for their removal is that it creates a larger area for the winter green.

### **GREEN**

1. The slopes on the "MacKenzie" Green pose challenges no matter the position of the pin. By cutting the existing slopes and hollows around the green to fairway level, the challenge will be increased but also be made more interesting by presenting players with a greater choice of shot.
2. The front section of the green will be flattened out reduce the slope from back to front which makes for an impossible shot in summer.

### **BUNKERS**

1. The surrounds to the greenside bunkers will be cut to fairway level to better collect less than accurate shots or deflect them further wide into a greenside swale.
2. Bunkers short of the green to be removed.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**This good par 3 will look and play better by emphasising its raised green by cutting the greenside fringes into the natural swales and hollows around both sides of the green, increasing the target area but also increasing the challenge. At the same time, the unfairness of the tee shot for the less accomplished player can be remedied by cutting back the clump of trees in the left fairway and removing the bunkers short of the green.**

**HOLE 5    Par 4    Index 11    B 360 W 360 Y 351 R 345**

*This could become a classic risk and reward heathland links hole with some subtle shaping of the fairway and growing the rough longer on the right past the heather patch. Greater emphasis will be placed on accuracy rather than length and the running game will be better encouraged by the removal of the bunker short of the green on the left, offset by widening the fringes back left and back right.*

**TEES**

Tees are not able to be used to their full width because of overhanging branches on the left of the tee, not helped by a prevailing left to right wind. These will be cut back. Also, because players often use iron and utility clubs from these tees, thus increasing the wear and tear, the area should be increased where possible by making them longer and widened further to the right.

**FAIRWAY**

The fairway should be wider at the beginning to help the less accomplished and brought near to the tees. Where feasible the fairway will be moved as far to the left as possible before narrowing down towards the fairway bunker short of the green on the right. The rough on the right-hand side will be allowed to grow longer.

**HEATHER**

The patch of heather in front of the tee on the right will be weeded and encouraged to grow by seeding in order to increase the area of heather.

**BUNKERS**

1. The Fairway bunker on the right short of the green will be reduced in size and the entrance cut to fairway length. Heather will be grown at the back of the bunker and its surrounds.
2. The bunker in the left rough short of the green will be removed and the approach to the green widened to allow a running to be played from the left of the fairway.
3. The bunkers on the right of the green will remain in place but will be remodelled to allow the ball to roll into the middle of the bunkers.

**GREEN**

This is a relatively large and flat green for a short par 4 so the fringes to the green will be widened to allow shots to run off the back and the sides of what is another raised green.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

With the boundary wall on the left and trees on the right, this hole lends itself to strategic golf where the premium should be on accuracy, not length. Making full use of the raised green and using its swales and hollows, shaping the fairway to make the tee shot fairer for the less accomplished and increasing the challenge for the better golfer will improve the hole and make better use of its heathland heritage. In short, a classic risk and reward hole.

## **HOLE 6 Par 4 Index 7 B 389 W 359 Y 350 R 313**

*A great par 4 which has the potential to play better and look even better. It needs to decide whether or not it wants to be a gentle dogleg R to L – this can be accomplished by bringing the fairway bunker more into play by making it smaller and putting it back into the fairway. The green is classic links, raised at the back and sides and running from front to back and right to left nearer the back of the green.*

### **TEES**

1. The back tee will be enlarged as much as possible and the trees obstructing the line of play on the left removed thereby reducing the need to play to the right of the fairway towards oncoming golfers coming down the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway.
2. The white, yellow and red tees will be widened as far as practical, creating just two forward tees.

### **TREES**

3. Trees which obstruct tee shots, particularly from the Blue Tee will be trimmed/reduced as appropriate.

### **FAIRWAY**

4. The fairway will be brought back as near to the tee as possible and shaped to include the fairway bunker which is currently marooned in the rough.
5. The entrance to the green will be widened to accept running approach shots from both sides of the fairway.
6. Fairway to be shaped to produce a gentle dog leg R to L.

### **BUNKERS**

7. The fairway bunker will be fully re-introduced into the fairway and heather planted at the back of the bunker.
8. The greenside bunker on the left is not only a favourite collection point for pine needles, it is also compromised by tree roots. It will be removed and a grassy collection area put in its place.

### **GREEN**

9. The opportunity to produce a classic links-type green will be taken, by using the existing raised nature of the green and accentuating the effect by cutting the fringes wider, creating hollows and swales all around the green. The quid pro quo for widening the entrance to a running shot is to demand that this kind of shot is accurate enough to stay on what is in normal conditions a fast green.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**This hole lends itself to a gentle dogleg in design and by bringing the fairway bunker back into play and by putting a premium on an accurate second shot, the result will produce an excellent heathland links hole from tee to green which warrants its low stroke index and is demanding for players of all abilities. The heather on the back of the fairway bunker and the wider greenside hollows and swales will also enhance the look and interest of the hole.**

## **HOLE 7 Par 5 Index 17 B 459 W 459 Y 450 R 428**

*A relatively straight-forward par 5 which could be made a bit more challenging for the scratch player and the less accomplished player alike, by bringing the fairway bunkering more into play. The green is relatively flat, albeit with some subtle borrows, and has little protection, other than the banking at the back of the green, with the fringe rough being cut very close to the green itself. Widening the fringes and cutting them to fairway level at the side and back will improve the hole further.*

### **TEES**

The teeing areas will be widened as far as practicable to the right thus creating more of an impression of a dogleg. The Red tee will be widened and the winter tee will be maintained all year round. Over time, the back tee will be moved even further right to create a bigger and more interesting teeing ground.

### **FAIRWAY**

The fairway lacks definition off the tee and indeed all the way to the green and visually it will benefit from being cut short from tee to green. No rough will be allowed to grow across the fairway at any point.

### **BUNKER**

The bunker to the right of the fairway will be fully included in the fairway and not left stranded in the rough.

### **GREEN**

The greenside fringes will be widened at the left of the hole and at the back to allow approach shots which are too firm to roll off the back and further left into greenside hollows. The grass on the right of the green will be left as rough as that side of the green is already protected by the pond short right.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**The main objective is to bring more definition to the hole and to bring the fairway bunkering into play. The green will also be improved by widening the fringes at the left and the back of the green and cutting to fairway level, putting a premium on an accurate approach shot. The result will produce a more interesting experience for all golfers.**



## **Hole 8 Par 3 Index 13 B 146 W 146 Y 138 R 138**

*This is a very good par 3 which has been visually improved by the heather plantation in front of the teeing ground. With a few alterations, the hole can be further improved, both in the playing and visual sense.*

### **TEES**

The teeing areas ground is wide and large in area but encroachment of trees reduces the teeing area quite markedly. The effect of the trees surrounding the tee is also to suppress turf growth. A programme of removal and thinning out will remedy both issues.

### **FAIRWAY**

The heather plantation will continue to be protected. The approach to the green will be cut to fairway length from the heather all the way to the green.

### **BUNKERS**

1. The bunker short left of the green will be remodelled with heather planted on the back.
2. The bunker front right will be reduced in size

### **GREEN**

The greenside fringes will be widened at the left of the hole and at the back to allow approach shots which are too firm to roll off the back and further left into greenside hollows.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**This is already a good par 3 and has been enhanced by the heather plantation which has been grown in front of the tee. The planting of heather on the back of the left greenside bunker will improve the hole even further and provide much-needed definition. It is also planned to grow more heather on the right side of the approach to the green.**

## **HOLE 9 Par 4 Index 3 B 428 W 428 Y 424 R 424**

*A long straight par 4 which will benefit from several small improvements - better fairway definition, bringing bunkers more into play, widening the entrance to the green to allow running shots to run into greenside bunkers and embracing the greenside swales and hollows by extending the fringes at the sides and at the back of the green.*

### **TEES**

The teeing ground will be improved to create one larger and longer area to accommodate all tees. This will help to overcome the issue of the trees on the left of the fairway for faders and to reduce the number of wayward drives onto the 15<sup>th</sup> fairway and green, which has been a common health and safety problem over the years. To that end, it is recommended that the right tee become the preferred competition tee.

### **FAIRWAY**

1. Fairway will start from in front of the tee.
2. The fairway entrance to the green will be cut symmetrically in front of the green, favouring neither side in terms of access from a running shot but at the same time bringing both greenside bunkers into greater play by cutting the grass to fairway length in front of them.

### **BUNKERS**

3. The fairway cross bunkers will be reduced in size.
4. The left greenside bunker is in need of repair and is encroaching upon the putting surface. It will be made smaller.
5. Both greenside bunkers will be reduced in size and brought fully into play by extending the fairway approaches to encompass them.
6. Heather will be grown on the back of bunkers.

### **GREEN**

This is a good example of a links green, running as it does from front to back. To enhance this effect and its raised green nature, fringes will be cut short all the way down the sides of the green and extended into existing hollows which will be cut to fairway length.

### **HEATHER**

Sadly the heather which would have grown down the side of the fairway nearer the green has been worn away by constant footfall. Attempts will be made to rejuvenate this area with a new heather bed.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**The improvements planned will make what is after all a straight par 4 much more interesting by better fairway definition and creating run-offs around the green, utilising the existing natural hollows and slopes, which will put the finishing touches to what will be an excellent heathland links hole.**

## **HOLE 10 Par 3 Index 18 B 176 W 138 Y 127 R 120**

*The 10<sup>th</sup> hole is a fairly straightforward par 3 with a flat fairway approach to a large green which classically tilts from front to back. To enhance the look of the green which sits above the surrounding ground, the front approach will be extended down both sides of the green to utilise the existing swales and hollows to greater effect.*

### **TEES**

For men, this hole is better played from the back tee at all times through the summer months but usage is restricted because of the proximity of the neighbouring road and housing. Because of the short clubs that are used in the main from the tees, damage is considerable. The forward tees will be enlarged.

### **FAIRWAY**

1. The fairway will be cut as short as possible back to the forward tee.
2. The approach will be extended down both sides of the green to encompass the existing hollows

### **GREEN**

Because of the out of bounds at the back of the green, the banking at the back will be kept long to help prevent over-hit shots from entering the penalty area, in the interests of speedy play.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**The improvements planned will make what is after all a straight-forward par 3 more interesting by better fairway definition and creating run-offs around the green by utilising the existing natural hollows and slopes. Consideration should be given to reinstate the out-of-bounds at the back of the green, to sow the seeds of doubt in the golfer's mind and also in the interests of speedy play.**

## **HOLE 11 Par 5 Index 6 B 468 W 468 Y 413 R 401**

*This is a testing par 5 for all golfers, because of the difficulty of the tee shot. The carry from the tees can prove a challenge for the elderly and the short hitters but the dogleg element of the hole also makes for a challenging tee shot for long hitters. This remains a good golf hole with a heathland feel to it, plus great fairways and an interesting approach to the green provided by the banking on either side. Interestingly, there are no bunkers on this hole.*

### **TEES**

The back tee will be levelled and made as big as possible given the small amount of space currently available.

### **FAIRWAY**

1. The fairway will be cut as short as possible back to the forward tee and widened all the way to the dogleg.
2. The banking on the approaches to the green will be cut as close as possible to fairway length.

### **TREES**

Overhanging branches will be trimmed as part of the tree maintenance programme.

### **GREEN**

Fringes will be widened where possible.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**The hole requires no specific alterations, other than improvements to the back tee and widening the fairway at the corner of the dogleg. There is a good running fairway and good turf with challenging bankings at the entrance to the green.**

## **HOLE 12 Par 4 Index 8 B 423 W 417 Y 399 R 346**

*A deceptively difficult par 4, this hole has become ever more difficult over time for a great many golfers other than the big hitters, solely because of the encroachment of trees to the left of the tee and a group of trees further down the line of play on the right. The issue is that it is only the elderly, the very young, the short hitters and the beginner who are disadvantaged by these circumstances and for them at least, changes are required to make this hole fairer and more enjoyable. This can be achieved in part by returning the hole to its original design, a gentle dogleg right to left, which will also have the benefit of bringing what was originally a fairway bunker back into play.*

### **TEES**

The problems posed by encroaching trees on the left of the tee and along the left of the fairway are exacerbated by the clump of trees in right centre of the fairway, creating an unfair challenge for any golfer unable to carry the trees. In addition, there is also a long carry to the left fairway.

1. Tree branches will be thinned from the back of the tee on the left hand side
2. Trees around the tee will be thinned out to provide much needed sunlight to aid turf growth
3. Tees will be widened to provide a larger teeing area.

### **TREES**

4. The clump of trees will be removed apart from a couple of birch trees to allow a clearer tee shot, thus providing for a wider gap. This will give a clear view of the fairway of a hole which will be improved just by being able to see exactly what confronts the golfer all the way to the green. The heather that has survived under this clump of trees will be removed and replaced further down the fairway.

### **FAIRWAY**

5. The fairway will be cut back to the tees and reshaped to create a gentle dog-leg right to left.
6. The bunker currently in the rough on the right will be brought back into the fairway, just as originally intended when the hole was designed.
7. The turf on the edge of the wall at the front of green will be improved by removing the top layer of stonework; this will produce a gentle sloping effect to prevent balls being held up, the result of which is an untidy area created by damage from chipping onto the green.

### **GREEN**

8. The fringes will be extended to allow the ball to run off the back and sides and the greenside bank fringes cut to fairway length.
9. The greenside bunker will be reduced in size.

### **HEATHER**

A new area of heather will be established short left of the green, partly using the heather which will be removed from the area near the clump of trees.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**To return the hole to its original shape (a gentle right to left dog-leg). This will also make the hole fairer for the average golfer and increase the enjoyment and challenge for the Tiger. Clearing the clump of trees in front of the tee will have the added benefits of producing an excellent vista of an excellent links hole, which offers a choice of tee shot and by bringing the bunker currently marooned in the rough back into play. From a health and safety view, changing the alignment will reduce the chances of tee shots inadvertently flying over the trees on the left onto the practice ground.**

## **HOLE 13 Par 3 Index 16 B 105 W 105 Y 99 R 95**

*This Alistair Mackenzie designed hole is an outstanding example of how a par 3 need not be long in yardage. The plan is to add to the challenge of a fast-running green, which runs from back to front, by creating a links-type green with run-offs into the existing hollows surrounding the green. In addition, the aesthetic view of the hole will be improved considerably by the removal of the bunker short of the green.*

### **TEES**

The tee is large and flat and every part of it is usable.

### **FAIRWAY**

Approaches to the green will be cut back to the heather and the front bunker removed to create a larger area for the winter green and also reduce maintenance costs.

### **GREEN**

The surrounds will be cut short and the fringes widened to allow balls to roll off the green and down into hollows which will be cut to fairway length.

### **BUNKERS**

1. The front bunker will be removed – any ball which lands short will be directed either left or right of the green. Removal will provide a bigger area for the winter green.
2. Greenside bunkers are eating into the green These will be repaired and therefore made smaller and their fringes will be cut short to collect wayward tee shots.

### **HEATHER**

Heather will be encouraged to grow over a wider area in front of the tee and along the right of the path which will remodelled and lead all the way to a trolley park at the right of the green.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The proposed alterations to the hole will enhance its looks and it will play more like the heathland links hole it undoubtedly is and again be worthy of the veneration which has been subsequently bestowed on its designer. The green is excellent and a real challenge to all abilities. Daring the scratch golfer to miss the green and end up in difficult hollows would be a worthwhile incentive. Fringes which stop the ball feet from the pin are not to be countenanced on this hole, as a certain course designer will shudder in his grave if he knew!

## **Hole 14 Par 4 Index 2 B 400 W 400 Y 391 R 334**

*An excellent test of golf (the stroke index does not lie) augmented by being uphill and into the prevailing cross-wind. Improving the exit from the teeing ground and the surrounds to the green will make the hole more attractive still and help reduce the chances of tee shots flying over the trees and out of the course.*

### **TEES**

A large teeing area will be better utilised by removing overhanging branches to the right of the tee and from the copse of trees on the left of the fairway, to provide a wider and fairer view of the fairway. Two further benefits - tee shots can be more easily aimed up the left hand side of the fairway to counter the prevailing left to right wind accentuating its left to right dog-leg aspect and secondly by pushing tee shots further left, the incidence of balls being carried over the trees on the right and into the neighbouring road and housing will hopefully be reduced. This is itself is a major consideration.

### **FAIRWAY**

1. Will be cut as far back as possible to the bank of heather in front of the red tee, accepting that the land is not good enough to be proper fairway all the way back.
2. Given the tightness of the tee shot, and the difficulty of the hole generally, the fairway will be cut wider where the fairway begins now and the semi-rough maintained at a short level on both sides.
3. The fairway will also be cut as far left as possible to create more of a dogleg.

### **BUNKERS**

There are none at present but it is planned to re-introduce one into the right centre of the fairway where it narrows around 150 yards from the green. This will be done by digging out the front of the existing mound and creating a pot bunker with heather around and behind it.

### **GREEN**

The greenside fringes will be widened on the right banking of the hole and at the back to allow approach shots which are too firm to roll off the back and further right into greenside hollows. The approach to the green will be widened and cut to fairway level to allow running shots from both sides of the fairway.

### **HEATHER**

The heather patch in front of the Red tee will be weeded and sown with more seeds and the heather area enlarged with further planting.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**The plans for this hole will make the drive fairer for shorter hitters and beginners, by cutting back tree branches, widening the fairway at the dogleg corner and bringing the fairway back nearer to the Red tee. The green, which can be approached from the front, will be defended by cutting the fringes and banks and hollows around the green to fairway length, again bringing the natural characteristics of the terrain into play. The rolling nature of the fairway from 150 yards in will be accentuated and reintroducing what appears to be the original fairway bunker will add to the excitement and visual enjoyment.**

## **HOLE 15 Par 3 Index 10 B 212 W 212 Y 208 R 198**

*A long and challenging par 3, albeit it is downhill, with a fairway bunker across the right hand entrance to the green. Like many holes at West End, tree surgery of some description is needed, to open the green (on the left in this case) which has become camouflaged from the tee by overhanging branches.*

### **TEES**

Excellent back tee but the forward tees require remedial action. One large new tee will be created for social use, juniors and as a winter tee.

### **FAIRWAY**

4. Since the fairway bunker is a menace for short hitters and a veritable visual aid for long hitters, it is proposed to remove this bunker altogether.
5. It is proposed to maintain the grass as close to fairway height from tee to green. This will allow errant tee shots to find their way into both the left and right greenside bunkers without hindrance.
6. The approach to the green will be cut to fringe height back to where the old bunker used to be.

### **GREEN**

The green is classically tilted from front to back and from right to left, presenting tricky putts from all directions whatever the pin position. To compensate for the removal of the front bunker, the green's fringes will be widened to allow over-hit approach shots to run off into hollows which will cut to fairway length.

### **BUNKERS**

7. The left greenside bunker will benefit from the removal of overhanging branches, not least because it collects unwanted pine needles in abundance, while the right hand greenside bunker will be brought into the approach to the green, rather than be stranded in the rough. It will be further enhanced with the introduction of heather on its back banking.
8. The front bunker to be removed.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**A really good par 3 with a large sloping green but it should be more accessible to the tee shots of lesser golfers. The removal of the front fairway bunker will remedy this, allowing the whole width of the approach to the green to be cut to fairway length and thereby allowing a running shot, which if inaccurate, to run into a greenside bunker, or if hit too firmly, to continue off the green into a greenside hollow. The small alterations proposed will also enhance the view of the hole from the tee.**



## **HOLE 16 Par 4/5 Index 8/14 B 487 W 441 Y 432 R 418**

*A tough par 5 for most golfers and a ridiculously tough par 4 for all but the biggest hitters (because of the ditch running across the front of the green). The ditch, while acceptable and supportable as a par 5, is penal in the extreme as a par 4, also taking the greenside pond into consideration. The tendency for the Tiger, perhaps understandably, to take his drive over the dog-leg can reduce this hole to a drive and a short iron, with no accompanying risk other than the trees on the corner of the dog-leg.*

### **TEES**

Excellent - tees are fine. It is proposed to resurrect the forward tee at the side of the derelict building on the left as an alternative for social golf.

### **FAIRWAY**

The fairway is too narrow from the tee and presents a bigger carry than is appropriate for less accomplished and elderly golfers. It is proposed to do the following:

1. Cut the fairway back to nearer to the tees.
2. Widen the fairway at the corner of the dog-leg.
3. After the dogleg, the fairway will be narrowed and given more definition.
4. Cut a new pot bunker in the middle of the fairway to challenge drives which cut the corner over the trees and to provide a challenge to the second shot (in theory) for the majority of players.
5. Create more definition when playing from the Blue tee.

### **BUNKERS**

1. The left side bunker will be made smaller and brought forward to the front left of the green so that shots will be played up the green and not across the green.
2. A fairway bunker will be introduced seed doubts in the minds of those who cut the dogleg from the white and yellow tees and demand accuracy by the scratch player from the blue tee.

### **GREEN**

- The green is tricky and fast-running from back to front. The fringes where appropriate will be cut short to allow balls to roll off if hit too firmly.
- The greenside bunker will be made smaller and rough grown at the bottom side of the bunker and also behind the bunker to prevent errant approach shots from reaching the 1<sup>st</sup> green

### **HEATHER**

It is proposed to introduce a large area of heather on the right hand side of the fairway in the large gap between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> fairways, for aesthetic reasons and as a potential deterrent from cutting the corner of the dog-leg.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The proposed changes will enhance the hole for all but more importantly they will make the tee shot from the fairer for all those who cannot cut the dog-leg off the tee, i.e. all those who play the hole as it was designed to be played, while at the same time introducing more of a challenge to the Tiger who decides to take on the dogleg from the White and Yellow tees. Introducing a fairway bunker and heather on the right of the fairway will increase the enjoyment and challenge for all and enhance its look from tee to green.

## **HOLE 17 Par 4 Index 12 B 409 W 409 Y 389 R 389**

*An underrated hole by some because it is so accessible to big hitters but over recent years, the introduction of banking on the left, which has created a very narrow entrance, and the introduction out of bounds on the right, has made the drive an ever-increasing challenge for the elders and the short hitters. The balance of risk and reward has shifted inexorably toward the Tiger. That balance needs to be redressed by making the tee shot fairer for the short hitter and provide more of a challenge for the longer hitter.*

### **TEES**

The trees around the tee will be thinned and branches cut to allow more air and sunlight onto what has been a problem surface.

### **FAIRWAY**

1. Like the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway, the challenge from the tee for the Tiger and the Rabbit is disproportionate. The introduction of banking and the narrowing of the entrance to the fairway is a very welcome embellishment and improves the look of the hole no end - but it creates problems.
2. The issue lies in the fact that the grass on the banking is left too long, adding another hazard to the lesser golfer while a wide fairway past the banking only gives the Tiger another added advantage.
3. The banking will be cut short, especially where the fairway is at its narrowest. The carry from the tee is too big a challenge for many golfers and the fairway should become narrower from 160 yards out, not wider.
4. The fairway will be widened past the gap in the fairway before narrowing again from the top of the hill. In addition a pot bunker will be introduced right centre of the fairway at 140 yards from the green.

### **GREEN**

5. The flattest green on the course has no real protection. In order to add to the challenge, the fringes at side and back will be widened and cut to fairway length to allow the ball to roll off the back into hollows rather than get held up in short semi-rough near the pin.
6. Also in order to keep the fringes tidy, all the fringes including the banking on the left will be cut short to allow the ball to roll onto and off the green, rather than be held up, forcing players to chip and create untidy divots.

### **WILD AREA**

The wooded area down the right side of the fairway will be left as a wild area. It will then be extended all the way to greenside, to encourage wild flowers to grow.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**This could be an excellent hole but needs to take into consideration the different abilities and proficiencies of the golfers playing the course. There is an imbalance regarding tee shots which the changes proposed will rectify. By enhancing the terrain around the hole, the enjoyment would also be increased, introducing a wider variety of greenside shots and making maintenance easier.**

## **HOLE 18 Par 4 Index 4 B 428 W 428 Y 411 R 356**

*A tough par 4 which plays like a par 5 for the vast majority of players, even when not playing into the prevailing wind. It is blessed with superb heathland turf, is open to the elements and enjoys a small but difficult green. Needs little change.*

### **TEE**

No changes required or proposed.

### **FAIRWAY**

1. Fairway height is naturally short from the front of the tee and should always be maintained as such.
2. The fairway is wide which again is fair given the difficulty the terrain affords the lesser golfer, given that it is uphill all the way and into the prevailing wind and given the fact that it is in effect a par 5 hole for most golfers, although nominally a par 4.
3. The fairway could be widened on the left where the new banking has been constructed ie the grass is kept very long and inconveniences the lesser golfer on a hole which is invariably a struggle in any conditions.
4. The fairway approach will be widened on both sides of the green to encourage a running shot from all sides of the fairway and cut to fairway level.

### **GREEN**

5. This is probably the trickiest green on the course and needs no special protection, other than to cut the fringes wider at the back and on the left hand side of the green.

### **BUNKER**

6. The greenside bunker is flat and impractical in terms of playability and maintenance. It will be replaced with fairway, with a slope to tilt the ball to the left towards a greenside hollow. Like the neighbouring 11<sup>th</sup> green, there is a strong case which says no bunkers are required on either.
7. Thereafter, the plan will include the later introduction of a small pot bunker with heather back short of the green on the left to enhance the look of the hole and also create a false impression of distance for approach shots.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

**The 18th already fits the bill of a heathland links hole with fast running fairway and an open approach to a dangerously fast, sloping green. All that is needed is some cosmetic shaping of the fairway banking and around the fringes of the green. However, the introduction in time of a pot bunker short left of the green could add the final touch to a great finishing hole.**