

Greens Committee Minutes

Date 06-10-2020 meeting opened 17:00 – closed 19:15

Attendees: Andy Hall-Richard Carter- David Crampton (HGK)
Gary Pritchard (Pro)-Andy Bell-John Whiteley -Bryan Harvey. John Stirling.

Apologies: Harold box Club Captain.

1. **Reading of previous minutes and actions taken:**

Previous minutes were acknowledged as read and are posted on the club web site. Outstanding items table and actions taken since last meeting were discussed and updated.

2. Agenda Items:

- DC. The Hollow tining had not gone as well as planned, Dave gave several possible reasons for this. In 2019 HT was not done, the last being Aug 2018. Usually HT is done at the end July early Aug, to allow sanding and growth to occur. This year COVID compressed all competitions into a few months, proceeded by the wet conditions earlier in the year, which had pretty much been the same since Oct 2019. Monday 21st was chosen several weeks earlier as the week following was fairly quiet, giving time for top dressing and watering in. Due to the machine being on hire, the date was fixed for the 21st October, a lot depended on the weather. The HT cores in many areas were left in the ground by the machine, in places the core tore the surrounding turf. None of this was due to the machine, damage can only be noticed after it occurs, in some areas, the majority, it worked well. The 17th for example went extremely well with little or no damage. 9 holes were HT and 9 have been micro tined, HT was abandoned as a precaution against further damage, because at that time the reason for the tearing of greens was uncertain. Top dressing was applied in the normal fashion but brushing in was delayed due to rainfall Tuesday and Wednesday, by the week end most MT greens were good, the 1st & 4th had suffered worst but this was recoverable. More sand was applied once dryer conditions persisted, with rainfall forecast to help wash the sand in. Unfortunately, the process had taken several days longer than planned due to the weather, wet sand will not fill the HT hole, as when it dry's the grains are much smaller and then need re sanding. DC gave his frank opinion as to why the HT did not go as well as hoped. Missing HT in 2019 was a mistake, the reason for this was varied, but mainly due to the very wet conditions in the summer of 2019. Autumn 2019 was one of the

wettest on record, the early part of 2020 was worse, and not suitable to tine either, then COVID closed the course in March 2020.

Early in the spring 2020 we had 10 weeks with virtually no rain, April, May and into June was dry, irrigation alone was keeping the greens watered, but was no substitute for rainfall. The net result of these climatic factors probably caused parts of the greens, especially on the edges and where folds in the ground have been placed to create level changes, became dry and growth was poor. From the damaged turf lifted by the HT core, it can be seen that root depth was not as good as expected. Sand and watering have continued, and fertiliser applied, growth on areas of damage and all HT greens is now evident, cutting is back to 4mm for the rest of this year till next season, further MT and fertiliser will continue to be applied. DC is confident the damaged areas will repair in a few weeks while growth continues, if necessary re-turfing patches, an option he will consider.

DC and the committee apologise to those members who were distressed by the image of the damage to the greens, and the disruption it has caused. The Ladies Open day was particularly disappointing, as sand was prevalent on some greens till later in the day, this vital and necessary top dressing had to go ahead.

- AH the HT this year has been an eye opener for the Greens Director and the committee, we recommend the following to try to prevent future failings in this process. We are committed to improve our greens in 2020/21.
 1. A date will be agreed in 2021 and published as course closed, Monday 9th Aug 2021 was pencilled in and will be confirmed by the golf team when next year's competitions are agreed.
 2. The following 4 midweek days will be social competition only, players need to be able to pick up and walk around work in progress,
 3. We will investigate the purchase of our own HT equipment, this will allow HT to occur when we want and as frequently as we need, without relying on a third party.
 4. The HGK will investigate the enrolment of a professional ergonomist report, the last was done in 2012. This could confirm the cause of this year's results and give us professional advice on the condition of our greens and grasses generally.
 5. Further MT will happen before next season to aerate and allow some improved drainage and root development.
 6. Irrigation will be improved on those holes which need more sprinklers, it is thought that one cause of the damage green on the top level of the 18th is due to lack of hydration, even during manual sprinkling.
 7. Fertilisation regimes will be increased if recommended, pending any report.

- GP Gary has commented on all decisions made that may affect the playability of the course, any decision that substantially changes the course would need further thought and consideration before committee approval.
- AB Andy has provided a detailed buggy and foot path plan; the committee agree on this year's pathway development. DC will develop the 12th footpath and place a retaining edge to the drive near the 13th waste bin. It is thought a good deal of water runs off the drive onto the 12th causing flooding of this area. Andy commented on the state of the 5th and 6th Tees when substantial rainfall occurs with high footfall. The committee agreed that these two pathways were targeted next to try alleviating the mud from Tee to Fairway. The plan is to develop further the footpaths of the 11th 3rd and others in future. History tells us which areas are prone to churning, connecting the course this way keeps players out of the mud and reduces its formation.
- JW John raised a point on the area around the HWH, AH assured the committee he had spoken with the contractor and the HGK and had a full plan to landscape the area. Removing the unsightly green and black matting, turfing and laying a footpath to join the patio at the new HWH to the area of the 10th Tee. This will be completed during the Winter of 2020/21.
- JS the new clanger for the 1st will be placed later this month in the exit from the 1st green to the right of the footpath. Signage similar to the 5th and 6th will be made and placed next to the 1st Tee area.
- BH signage for members and visitors to remind them of their responsibility to not Tee off while the public may be in line of shot, has been postponed. We feel the general need for such a warning is not necessary but will monitor this.
- AOB. The committee discussed other items for the winter work list. These include a large project to improve the greenside bunker on the 9th, this being prone flooding and retaining water. DC will redesign this bunker, GP is keen to know the full details before work commences. We will reduce the size and repair drainage of the bunker, several other bunkers are on our radar for similar works, this is not a simple or quick fix.
- Tee boxes are generally in poor condition and committee members asked for DC to make a concerted effort to improve these into 2021. DC will add sprinklers and re seed, or re-turf some. Levelling Tees and making the area flatter is one area we have asked DC to focus on, we are identifying which Tee boxes need the most attention first, for discussion in November.
- The course will go onto winter Tee mats on the 24th October, fairway mats will only be used with advice from the web site and professional shop.
- A new OOB line will be placed along the 8th fence line, this will stand approximately 1mtr inside the course. If a ball hits the fence and drops within the post and the fence, it will be OOB. The 8th hole is to have a subtle re-sculpture, GP will assess any changes suggested and he will ensure the

playability of the hole is not substantially changed so as to affect the index of the hole. AB, JW, and RC are working together to improve the 8th hole, developments will be publicised once we are decided on the changes, the new OOB is a H&S measure.

Next meeting was agreed, 5pm Tuesday 3rd November 2020.

ITEM	NAME	UPDATE or ACTIONED	RAISED/UPDATED
Stimp readings And greens cut	DC	Greens are now being cut to 4mm	06-10-2020 Closed for 2020
Funding plans	AH & RC	Budget agreed	07-09-2020 closed
Footpath Surveys	AB & JW	Winter planning in process	06-10-2020
TORs BOD agreement	AH	Embedded	06-08-2020 closed
Drainage 3 rd GS	DC	Lines and hoops to be marked	06-10-2020
8 TH Bridge project	AB & DC	Proposed changes approved by GC. GP to inspect	06-10-2020
Bunker planning	DC	9 th large GS bunker to have extensive work over winter to improve drainage.	06-10-2020
Dustbin replacement	RC-DC	4 new bins to be installed winter 20/21	06-10-2020
Tree thinning	DC	Winter work	06-10-2020
Ball retriever	AH/DC/GP	Implemented V3 fitted on some holes.	06-10-2020
Repainting of T and distance markers	DC & AB	Partially implemented/ Ongoing.	06-10-2020
OOB and hazard stakes repaint	DC-GP	1 st 10 th 9 th repainted	06-10-2020

		New OOB 8 th fence, review GP	
Signage 7 th 13 th 16 th new warnings to golfers of public ROW	BH/AH	1 st 7 th 13 th 16 th To remain as currently signed	06-10-2020 Closed
Erect new warning signs 16,13 and 7 th	AH	done	06-08-2020 Closed
50 Volunteer sandbaggers	AH-DC	More sand bags to be placed on rack 1 st T	06-10-2020
Adopt a Bunker plan	AH	Postponed	08-09-2020 Closed
Clanger 1 st	AH JS DC	Clanger to be installed at 1 st green exit to 2 nd . Signage on 1 st T req as seen on 5 th 6 th	06-10-2020 By 2 nd Nov 2020
Reduce grass cutting by 100 square meters	DC	Wild areas now growing, Ongoing progress, 1 st phase.	06-10-2020
Practice Area & Putting green tidy up	DC/JW	Practice areas tidied up- WIP	06-10-2020