

Greens Committee Minutes

Date 08-09-2020 meeting opened 17:30 – closed 20:00

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 have been posted on the club web site since August. Outstanding items table and actions taken since last meeting were discussed, the updated table is below.

2. Agenda Items:

- DC briefed the Committee on progress and any areas of concern. Tining and top dressing will go ahead in a few weeks, the 21st has been identified as a start, weather dependant the process should be completed that week. Dave confirmed the rough length is now being cut to 2 ½ inch as requested by the committee, this was to give sufficient punishment from the rough, we will review this next month if wetter conditions require a cut to shorter length. Wild grass growth is slow but taking form in areas where it has been chosen to allow extra growth. These areas will become more obvious next year, initially there may be some appearance of scruffiness, this will improve. Areas chosen are not in line of play and will be found usually behind or at the side of tee boxes, or in setback areas of the course. This will reduce cutting times by up to 1 hour a day in the growing season. Bunker sand will start to be distributed, GS bunkers will receive the first batch. Dave was asked about course closure protocols, during the summer green staff sometimes start at 5am, winter timings have been moved to 7am, this may delay closure notification till 0730, we will review this and make adjustments if needed.
- AH announced the winter budget increase agreed by the board of Directors on 07th September, this increase of funds is being targeted at areas of concern such as bunker drainage, drainage generally and irrigation, especially on tee boxes. Further pathway construction to enable mobility and reduce churning in wet periods is planned. Two new clangers are now installed, 6th tee and 6th next to the ditch. Members using these should consider Cleaning with personal hand gel, a flying ball is as dangerous as the virus, if you're the recipient. If you choose not to use them, you must make sure the way is clear and call 'fore' as a matter of precaution always. Signs are working on 7th – 13th and 16th footpath crossings. More waste bins will be put in place soon; litter is an individual

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responsibility always. Divot repair is improving; sand bags are available still from the 1st tee.

- GP was asked about his professional opinion on the OOB on the 9th, this will be debated again at the next meeting when HB is present, there is debate around its validity, and its location and markings. For now, it remains as marked. Gary will construct a hard copy visitor brief, to try and capture transgression points noticed by members, such as; Keeping buggies and trollies away from greens, divot and pitch repair, litter, local rules and general etiquette.
- AB presented a hard copy of his survey for the course footpath and buggy path. This outlines the existing paths, suggested new paths to install over the next 3 years, and a longer term desire to connect the whole course (wish list). The committee will review this plan and report back in Oct with comments and proposals for amendment. The winter work on paths will commence in November.
- JW asked for the practice areas to get some attention, weed is present in the putting areas, and hoops could be removed. Grass cutting on the large field could be made to represent fairway condition, DC agreed to give these areas attention quickly. John also asked about equipment sharing and offered to liaise with a local club to see if their Greens staff were inclined to reciprocate in the event of major machinery loss. This has not been agreed between two local clubs before, DC is doubtful managements will agree because of liabilities. John W and Andy B, have offered to survey the 8th hole and come up with ideas and a proposed plan to improve and repair the hole. GP will oversee the suggestion before any work is done, so as not to change substantially the par and character of the 8th hole.
- JS raised the issue of risk of balls being driven onto the 1st from White or Yellow Tees, we will install a clanger at the exit to the 2nd, and place signage near the 1st Tee to warn of this risk and to await the bell or positively confirm clear if intent on hitting long onto the green. A recent report of a ball hit over the bunkers and near missing members walking down the 18th tree line was given to the GD recently, visiting players need reminding of this risk, a sing will help. John asked about the health of the blue tee 1st, DC replied he is monitoring the grass, but will re turf the tee box if it fails to pick up before end of season. John asked if Astro turf could be placed on the 6th wooden bridge, it becomes slippery when wet. DC agreed and will do so. John asked if we could

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spray avoid lines early on approaches, getting buggies and walkers to avoid the aprons and prone wet areas before muddy patches develop. Dave Crampton agrees, we can use spray lines and arrows, hoops and if necessary roping. Roping is a last measure, if the other measures don't get the response expected, e.g. non-compliance from golfers.

- BH asked for new signs on the 7th 13th and 16th to advise golfers, that walkers crossing have priority, Agreed. He also asked about bunker drainage and which bunkers will be improved. Much discussion took place, a decision was to reduce the 9th RH greenside and make it into two smaller bunkers as part of this years' winter work. DC explained his struggle with the course bunkers over the years, saying there is no magic bullet, each has particular problems, but the very large will always give greater problems than smaller, proven by previous work on 7th and 8th and 10th for example. AB questioned pumping, it happens frequently DC responded, we have one pump usually working nonstop after heavy rainfall. Brian also raised the 6th ditch, this has had a second spraying on Monday. AB suggested a covering, like netting to try to limit and kill off growth. DC reminded all of H&S concerns on the banks of the 6th, previous ideas were discussed, we agreed to give the 6th ditch some attention over this winter.

AOB. Nil points raised.

Next meeting was agreed, 5pm Tuesday 6th October 2020.

Outstanding Items Table			
ITEM	NAME	UPDATE or ACTIONED	RAISED/UPDATED
Stimp readings	DC	9ft pre-cut 10ft post cut	06-08-2020 To be Re-assessed for Oct meeting
Funding plans	AH & RC	Budget agreed	07-09-2020
Footpath Surveys	AB & JW	Ongoing Plans in place	08-09-2020
TORs BOD agreement	AH	Embedded	06-08-2020
Drainage 3 rd GS	DC	Planning	08-09-2020
8 TH Bridge project	AB & DC	Planning in progress	08-09-2020
Bunker survey	BH & JS	Planning in progress	08-09-2020

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Dustbin replacement	DC & AH	3 new bins to be installed winter 20/21	08-09-2020
Tree thinning	DC	Winter work	02-07-2020/ 06-08-2020
Trial Ball retriever 18th	AH/DC/GP	Implemented	06-08-2020
Repainting of T and distance markers	DC & AB	Partially implemented/ Some winter work req	08-09-2020
OOB and hazard stakes repaint	DC	1 st 10 th 9 th repainted	08-09-2020
Signage inspection 7 th 13 th 16 th new warnings to golfers of public ROW	BH/AH	1 st 7 th 13 th 16 th in place, new map and no public access WIP	08-09-2020
Erect new warning signs 16,13 and 7 th	AH	done	06-08-2020
50 Volunteer sandbaggers	AH	In place, needs more support	08-09-2020
Adopt a Bunker plan	AH	Postponed	08-09-2020
Clangers 5 th & 6th	AH	5 th , 6 th In place, new order for 1 st .	08-09-2020
Reduce grass cutting by allowing some wild area growth	DC	Ongoing	08-09-2020
Practice Area & Putting green tidy up	DC/JW	Practice areas tidied up- WIP	08-09-2020