



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

Greens Director Report July 2021

Dear Members,

At last, we can play golf normally once again, for over 15 months we have endured lockdowns, furlough and restrictions that have impacted on the maintenance and subsequently the condition of the course. But with the hard work of the greens team our course is starting to look in great shape again, the Club Championship played this weekend on greens running true and at a good pace. But we still have much more to do.

Looking forward is our priority now, not back, the Greens Committee are united in this. To give us guidance I have prepared a long term plan that will give the HGK and his team direction for several years ahead. For example how do we connect the course for buggy use, which drainage needs replacing, when will we replace our irrigation system? Are we leaving all trees to grow or do we have a structured plan, and many more examples. Firefighting the problems as they arise is expensive, slows down development and is very frustrating for the members who really only want to play golf.

This 5 to 10 year plan will help us decide what work we should prepare to do in the coming years. This winter for example, we will improve or construct new footpaths, improve and build additional drainage, improve and alter a few bunkers and focus keenly on improving and developing the tees. This last area is high on our list of things needing attention, it will require several years of staged and planned work to get all tees level, enlarging some if possible and improving the quality of grass coverage. There is also need for some detail to be addressed, what I like to call the infrastructure, bins, ball washes, signage, benches, and bridges, all planned to be renewed or repaired, but in a, manageable and affordable way.

The agronomist report due after his visit in mid-August will guide planning, currently greens are in very good condition, but we all know how quickly this can change. This report along with a long term plan, followed by annual reports should put the course on a structured, stable path. We anticipate some major changes will be needed in the coming years, inevitable when we consider it has been nearly 25 years since the original irrigation and first build of some of the greens. Not only will we listen to the experts but we plan to ask every one of you of your opinion in a survey soon to be delivered to every member for their thoughts on the club, its facilities and importantly the course. This survey will land in your email inboxes very soon, please take the time to complete it, because your feedback will help us focus our attentions, helping us to give you the course you desire.

Part of this plan is to improve practice facilities, an area we have never really prioritised, we will cut back the trees surrounding the practice green, returning it to a much more open, lighter and airier space, in the last 20 years it has become cramped by the surrounding trees. And whilst not part of my report, you will no doubt have read of the clubs plans for a simulator, more information on this very soon I hope.

I've had several critical letters and emails over the last year, I've also had emails and many conversations with very satisfied members and visitors. When the survey arrives please read it and use this to tell all the people who try to do the best for the club, what you think. We will let you all know the results and what we intend to do about it. Meanwhile, enjoy your golf and let's look forward to normal activities again very soon, the first being the Captains Day on Saturday 24th which will be the first real golfing social event for nearly 18 months.

Play safe and stay safe, do the right thing for you and others always.

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