



# NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

## Minutes of the Greens Committee meeting

Thursday 07<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Attendees: Andy Hall, Chair. Rich Carter, Golf Director. Dave Crampton HGK. Andy Bell, Brian Harvey, John Whiteley, Section reps and Members.

Apologies: Jayne Turner, Gary Pritchard Golf Pro.

Meeting held in Hatfeild Hall 1630-1830

Agenda Items:

- Drainage work commencing 01st Nov and disruption planning.
  - Bunkers 9th work commencing 11th Oct.
  - STRI report.
  - Irrigation and the long term plan.
  - Equipment and materials acquisition update.
  - How do we use volunteers.
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- AH opened the meeting by outlining the disruption planning for the upcoming scheduled bunker work on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole commencing on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. This work is in preparation for the new drainage being installed in the bunkers and around the 9<sup>th</sup> green which begins on the 01<sup>st</sup> Nov .
  - DC described the proposed redesigned bunkers, these will replace the current two deep and large ones which are prone to flooding. These two reshaped bunkers will have new drainage and are better designed to resist water ingress from the fairways in heavy downpours. DC consulted GP regarding the playability of the proposals, they were agreed by the committee to improve water resilience but not reduce the difficulty that the bunkers currently present.
  - AH will place notices in the club about the forthcoming work, any disruption it will cause, and remedial changes such as GUR while the work is in progress. This will include the filling in of one of the corner bunkers on the 9<sup>th</sup>, GUR will only be used once work commences. This filled in bunker will be grassed as a shallow scallop, once mature and returned to full play will still offer some hazard albeit not from sand, and removes a bunker that is high maintenance but generally out of play.

- DC described the traffic flow by the greens vehicles during this work, members will be asked to be patient and respectful whilst this work is ongoing. If playing in social golf and not competition players can opt to move onto the 10<sup>th</sup> if obvious delays are present. This will be for a few months only, the results we hope will be worth this small sacrifice.
- AH explained the outcome of the pre drainage visit by the contractors on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, and the Planning that was agreed between the club and the company. From 01<sup>st</sup> Nov a trenching machine will be working in the vicinity of the 9<sup>th</sup> green and 11<sup>th</sup> fairway bunkers. This vehicle will remain on site for the period of works, possible 2 weeks in total. During the first phase the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> holes will be closed off, we will be asking players to jump from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and use a 15 hole circuit for the first week. These holes will be reopened from the weekend 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, damaged areas will be GUR as usual. The work on the bunkers could run on into late December depending on weather and progress. We're hopeful to be complete on the project by Christmas, with a high chance of all grasses and evidence of work being repaired and grown back in early spring. GUR will be slowly removed as this repairs for the 2022 season. Progress reports will be given to members by email and notices in the club throughout.
- AH explained the work to repair the 13<sup>th</sup> pond and drainage on the 13<sup>th</sup> area will commence once the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> are complete, this could be as soon as Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. Once work starts the 13<sup>th</sup> will revert to Par 3 from a winter mat on the fairway, at a point to be agreed with GP, probably 150 to 180 yds to keep players away and safe from work on the pond. Access to this tee mat will be via the main drive off the 12<sup>th</sup> path, turning left down the track towards the 13<sup>th</sup> pond and winter mat. Signage will be in place to direct players.
- The drainage on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> pot bunkers will require play to jump these holes during trenching, however, this will only be for two days midweek depending on commencement date. Players will be advised by signage at the clubhouse of all ongoing work. This disruption should be for a very short period, the 13<sup>th</sup> will be played as a Par 3 once drainage work is complete and the pond work continues. The pond repair may take several days, possibly into a third week, progress will be communicated by notices throughout. Weekends may revert to full Par 4, we will need to assess the access up the path from the tee.
- AH, RC along with DC attended the STRI visit in August, a full report was received in September, the agronomist will revisit the club in November to assess progress. Discussions on the content of the report, recommendations and acquisition of resources were outlined. The committee agreed to implement all recommendations that are practical and within the financial ability of the club. Planning for this work is now agreed and in place. The full report will be displayed in the club.

- AH: As part of the STRI report our irrigation has been assessed, this system is over 30 years old and in need of some immediate investment. Replacing the system is beyond our financial capacity, but doing this in a piece by piece way is possible. Our first step will be to replace devices used to operate the sprinklers automatically, many have failed and new technology is not compatible. These decoders will give us some automation where the systems pipe work and sprinklers are still functional. In subsequent years further investment will be made in new pipes, valves and sprinklers. This will continue as an ongoing project, year on year. This is the only way the club can renew the irrigation system without huge financial burden and massive long term disruption to play.
- DC updated the committee on the acquisition of equipment ordered as part of the recommendations of the STRI report. A brush system was now in use and fitted to the greens mower, we believe this simple device is partly to credit for the great surfaces we now have on the greens, grass lengths can be maintained whilst speed and trueness is kept high. The report outlined a sample of 3 greens, where trueness was a high value, whilst at the same time speed was fair. The reason for this was probably due to the recent tinning and feed, just a week prior to the visit. Now in October, speeds have returned, trueness even better. We acknowledge the weather has been exceptionally fair for the time of year, this also must have a bearing on grass conditioning. The slitter and Pro-Core machines are both ordered, these may be delayed due to demand, but should be here in time to perform the work recommended for this winter. We have the option to loan or hire a pro core in 2022 if required.
- RC and all the committee commended DC and all his team, for the hard work and skill they have shown in giving us a great course and such high quality greens. They are a mark of high acclaim amongst many members and visitors who rate them as some of the best they have played and seen this season in our region.
- DC: all treatments recommended in the report are either ordered or acquired. This investment is not insignificant, along with the machinery, irrigation and drainage work this winter, members should see significant results in 2022.
- AH discussed the use of at least one volunteer in the capacity of part time labour, to assist the team during winter work. This idea will be shared with the board to gain approval and terms of use.
- JW agreed to carry out a tree survey of those trees most in need of removing overhanging branches and dead unhealthy trees in lining fairways. This tree removal is also part of the STRI report and could be fairly extensive, as no concerted tree removal has been performed for several years. It is hoped to deal with the most prevalent trees that affect play or the grass surfaces first. This is a particularly busy winter for the staff, cutting will progress dependant on staff availability. This is a long term strategy that will take us several years.

○ Outstanding and ongoing items list Reviewed 07-09-2021

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>UPDATE or ACTIONED</b>	<b>RAISED</b>
Stimp readings	DC	STRI report	18-08-2021
Funding plans	AH RC	Ongoing/ Agreed	07-10-2021
Footpath Surveys	AB JW	Ongoing	11-05-2021
TORs agreement Long term plan	AH	On the Website	02-07-2020
Drainage	DC	WC 01 <sup>st</sup> Nov 21	07-10-2021
Bunker survey	BH & JS	Ongoing	07-10-2021
Dustbin replacement	DC & AH	Donors required Sections?	07-10-21
Tree thinning	DC JW	Ongoing	07-10-2021
OOB and hazard stakes repaint	DC	Ongoing / Due	07-09-2021
Signage	BH	Ongoing	07-09-2021
All 18 Tees	AH DC	Winter work 21/22	07-10-2021
Greens damage repair	DC	Ongoing	07-09-2021
Irrigation	AH DC	Funding plan TBA BOD 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	07-10-2021
Traffic lines and GUR	DC	Ongoing	07-10-2021
6 <sup>TH</sup> Ditch weeds	DC/AH	Investigating redesign (2022)	03-06-2021
Fill bunker 9 <sup>th</sup> bend	DC	Not before WC 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021	07-10-2021
Drainage plans to be publicise	AH	Ongoing	07-10-2021
Signage for closure of 9/10/11	AH	Pre commencement 01 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2021	07-10-2021
Display STRI report	AH	Ongoing	07-10-2021