



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

Minutes of the Greens Committee meeting

Tuesday 12th April 2022

Attendees: Andy Hall, Chair. Rich Carter, Golf Director. Dave Crampton HGK. Gary Pritchard Golf Pro. Andy Bell, Brian Harvey, John Flocton Club Captain.

Apologies: Jayne Turner, John Whiteley.

Meeting held in Hatfeild Hall 1530

Agenda Items:

- AH. Previous minutes Dec 2021.
- AH. Winter work review.
- ALL. Outstanding issues/work for the coming season.
- AH. Update on 2022 machinery and equipment orders.
- AH. Junior (Novices) green tee locations and requirements.
- AH. Reposition Ladies 8th tee. & Suggestion by Kay to turn the ladies 8th tee into a feature. E.g. flower bed.
- DC. Update on greens and tees progress and health.
- AB. Aesthetics of the course, Brief suggestion on possible way ahead to address some bare patches.
- AH. Winter work Oct 2022 - April 2023.
- RC. Return to grass tees, When? 1st Competition.
- AH. Practice ground and Practice putting areas.
- AH. Next STRI visit 2022 TBC.
- AOB.

Andy Hall opened the meeting by welcoming the Club Captain and committee members to the first Greens committee meeting of 2022. Our last meeting being December 2021, with the majority of winter work being in progress.

AH. The new Drainage in Bunkers and areas on the course is generally a great success, time will tell. We have a few issues around the repair of ground and new grass growth. Some new wet spots have been noticed, these new wet spots can't be due to new drains, we think this is a perennial issue of water finding the easiest route to surface. Further investigation is needed and monitoring of the areas noted. 11th near the 100 yd marker, 13th just beyond the pond, and 18th just onto the fairway.

DC. In response: Grass is only just growing well cutting is just becoming a daily requirement, we will feed these areas, and put extra seed where required, some may need turf. Generally the repair of ground is going as well as expected considering the large area of works and it being early Spring where temperatures are constantly warmer, especially overnight.

AH. The 13th pond refurbishment has been successfully completed, I've asked DC to tidy up the area and replace signs and hazard marker posts.

DC. Reseeding and GUR will be finished, deep water signs and hazard posts replaced in the next few days.

GP. Gary commented on the 13th water hazard as being in play throughout the GUR of surrounding areas. A notice is placed in the club reminding players of this. GUR surrounding a Hazard does not mean the Hazard is out of play, only a free drop is permitted if the ball lies within the GUR but not in the hazard, where a penalty is to be taken.

AH. The Irrigation work carried out in February has been successful, Decoders were fitted to all sprinklers where installed. More funding will be requested for 2022/23 seasonal work to try to install new infrastructure where its known to be unserviceable or missing. Some funding is immediately available from the previous year's allocation and small underspend.

RC. Sprinklers and piping need installing before the summer, and not delayed till the winter work programme. Committee agreed, DC acknowledged this as fairly urgent work.

AH. We are very pleased with the health of the Greens, DC was asked to comment on plans so far and this coming season.

DC. Said he had not seen the greens in a healthier condition than at any time since his employment with the club. The application of extra feed and other agents, along with the use of Hollow coring over the last few years, has had a substantial effect on the health of the grasses. We have no visible fungal growth, and only a very few dry patches which we will deal with by application of a wetting agent.

AH. After some discussion by the group, we agreed to monitor this and discuss it further at the next meeting and after a period of better weather.

AH. A discussion around the future acquisition of the clubs own PRO-CORE machine, ordered in 2021 but still awaiting delivery because of material shortfalls world-wide, such as specialist metals etc. We loaned, at cost, a machine this year, ours is hoped to be here before the next cycle of HC is needed. All processes of spiking and slitting were discussed, including the use of applications on the greens. Daily cutting has commenced, we are approximately 4 weeks ahead of last year, in terms of greens condition. Repair of the HC is well underway naturally. Ironing greens was discussed and explained by DC. It is often used but has its critics and can reverse some of the benefits of HC by compressing the ground once it has been aeriated. It was decided to try it next year on two or three greens, to see if there is a benefit after coring. We will ask the STRI agronomist for his opinion also.

AH. Bunkers, some have had new drainage, especially the winter 14 hole bunkers, 11 in total this winter were worked on. We still have many needing repair on other parts of the course.

AB has done a survey on bunkers and produced a spreadsheet which the GC have used since forming in 2020. Bunkers have been identified for work in the winter 2022/23, these included the 3rd fairway LHS, 6th at 150yds, 8th next to bridge LHS, and 13th LHS fairway.

RC. Some bunkers have overhanging edges, the 18th greenside for example.

DC. We will cut these back and are replacing sand, especially in greenside bunkers.

AH. Tees have been a big focus this winter, we employed the new Slitter device several times over the last 6 months, applications were laid and new blades acquired, designed specifically to cut tees length grass. The results are very pleasing so far, but we still have further to go. Not using the grass during the winter and allowing it to rest is critical to its recovery, especially this year when we have done so much more to encourage growth. Where it hasn't worked so well, we have laid turf, more turf will be laid next winter if areas do not respond to these efforts. We will look at laying winter mats appropriate to the red tee markers and ensure these are of a suitable length for winter competition, just as we have this year for the current artificial matting. The aim will be for all players to use winter tees and rest all grass tees next winter, Red tees included.

DC. Once the GC have decided where these mats are to be placed, I will purchase new mats. AH/RC . We think it is only in a very few cases where red winter mats will be needed, the 12th is one obvious hole. A meeting with the Ladies section to discuss this will be arranged .

AH. We have laid over 300yds of new footpaths, and made new winter mat areas on the 2nd, 14th and 18th. This will continue in the coming winter period. AB has produced a survey from 2020 which we have to guide us in the development process.

AB. Explained his proposal of paths for the next years' work, another 300 yds approximately will be laid. The objective is to interlink the course for buggy access and reduced wear to surfaces which are frequently foot trodden.

A discussion of the Path programme ensued with several identified, these will be announced in a future report closer to commencement.

AH. Thank you to Andy Bell for his assistance in the build of steps to the 9th tees. There is now access to the rear of the white and yellow tees by steps, I will monitor this and advise members of our wishes for them to use these in most cases, alternatively approach the red or front of the yellow tees from the lower banked area near the winter mat.

JF Suggested a sign to tell people to use the steps to these areas, AH will investigate the response to use over this first month and decide if signage is necessary.

AH. A general discussion on removing some or most of the roping, some may remain for a period until the ground dry's. For example the 12th, where removing the rope may encourage players to not use the footpath and create wear to the right of the green. There are good reason to retain roping and some may be repositioned. Worn or heavy use areas are in focus, AB raised this as a topic for discussion, 'the aesthetics of the course'. Some wear can be seeded and marked off, these small areas are perennially bald we intend to try to address them. Larger areas may need some extra intervention, the access to the 8th

bridge and exit off the 18th are two areas discussed. The sand path on the side of the 3rd green will be repaired and possibly reinstated in future winters if needed. The gully along the side of the 16th green is a classic high wear area, buggies and players use this obvious route and cause flattened spots which are difficult to play from. The pond side of the 2nd is another area where suggestions to reduce wear were discussed. Roping off and markings will be employed to help the recovery of worn areas and prevent future wear.

AB. Suggested we lay a path along the worn ground between the 11th green and 9th tee, we all agreed that this would happen in the coming winter work, other areas will be made permanent where wear has become prevalent and unavoidable.

AB asked for repair on the 16th mat which had subsided. DC will deal with this by lifting it and filling in the subsidence.

AH asked for all mats to have two holes for RH and LH play with rubber inserts regularly checked. DC acknowledged this requirement and will start to repair or insert new holes. We will raise this again before the next winter change, back onto mats.

DC will put gravel into the 9th steps before the Easter weekend.

AH suggested purchasing a gravel banding machine. Agreed, he will investigate the cost and put this to the board as an possible purchase.

AH. STRI our agronomist is being invited back to the club, once agreed we will announce the date and subsequent reports. We will invite him to give a talk to members one evening and answer specific questions on golf course maintenance, an update to follow.

ALL. We agreed to open the grass tees from Friday 15th April, with a provisional use of fairway matts on par 3s for one week, coming off these from the following Friday subject to the weather conditions. Divot boxes will be placed out in preparation of the full use of the grass tees, members will be requested to use these where provided.

RC. Within comps we pay 95% of all competitions fees as winnings through the season but keep 5% for course improvements. The money raised last year along with a donation from the Rabbits is being used to provide thin pins and in the near future these will feature on our greens. This year's focus for course improvement which will be raised by the 5% plus other activities we will be slowly installing quality rakes in bunkers, two in large bunkers. These will be purchased in batches and spikes placed for rakes to sit upon. We will be encouraging all players to properly rake sand where ever it is disrupted or seen to be so.

RC. Explained the par status of winter tees and the fact the 14th as a par 4 is due to the mats only having a 'provisional rating'. Despite rumours to the contrary when we play off the yellow tees this will remain as it has always been, as a par 5.

AH asked DC to remove a few of the trees surrounding the practice area, especially the chipping ground which has overgrown slightly. DC will deal with this very soon.

AH Closed the meeting after the committee visited the 9th and 18th to inspect works and green condition. We then visited the Simulator, where RC showed the group a visual

representation of NGC which has been produced by a colleague who can design video games. The visuals which are similar to our own data base course, this is a view of all 18 holes. The purpose was to view the 9th for example, where the new arranged bunkers can be seen in advance of commencing work. This very realistic demonstration will be used in future to show members how holes will look where major changes may be proposed. Other holes were looked at and all agreed it was very accurate and realistic. After the visit it was agreed of how the rough to fairway cut should be defined on both the 8th and 9th hole, using this aid.

Outstanding and ongoing items list 12th April 2022

ITEM	NAME	UPDATE or ACTIONED	RAISED NEXT REQUIRED
Stint readings	DC	STRI report.	18-08-2021 May 2022
Funding plans	AH RC	Ongoing/ Agreed	07-10-2021 2022
Footpath Surveys	AB JW	8 th 18 th to lay	12-04-2022
TORs agreement Long term plan	AH	On the Website	02-07-2020 2022
Drainage	DC	Repairs ongoing	12-04-2022
Bunker survey	BH & JS	10 th 3 rd require drainage repair DC to action	12-04-2022
Dustbin replacement	DC & AH	Donors required Sections?	07-10-21 Review 2022
Tree thinning	DC JW	Ongoing	2022
OOB and hazard stakes repaint	DC	Ongoing / Due	Required now
Signage	BH	New maps are up at all entry gates	02-12-2021 Review
All 18 Tees	AH DC	Slitting in progress	2022 PLAN
Irrigation	AH DC	Funding agreed	02-12-2021 2022 Plan
Traffic lines and GUR	DC	Ongoing	12-04-2022

Display STRI report & update	AH	Ongoing	02-12-2021 Rebook visit 2022
9 th steps	AH DC	Infill with gravel	12-04-2022
Gravel bander	AH	Investigate purchase	12-04-2022
8 th & 9 th fairway shape	DC	Cutting of the fairway to the agreed shape	12-04-2022 ongoing.
Roping	DC	Roping re distributed to reduce wear	12-04-2022 ongoing