



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

Minutes of the Greens Committee meeting

Thursday 02nd December 2021

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

Apologies: Jayne Turner.

Meeting held in Hatfeild Hall 1530

Agenda Items:

- STRI visit and update from Gwynn Davies
 - Drainage update and plans for two new bunkers 9th
 - 13th pond repair booked for 10th Dec subject to materials being available
 - Trial of a leaf collector machine with ability to cut long grass and scarify (not greens)
 - Fusarium and the treatments DC has applied
 - Winter planning, trees, paths, steps, bridge, repairs to drainage work.
 - 2nd winter mat, 14th path and parking area near winter mat.
 - Planning for future drainage 2022, which bunkers, which fairways?
 - Irrigation 2022
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- AH opened the meeting by commenting on the very large programme of winter work ahead for the team, much of the period could be inclement and with a small team is ambitious. DC agreed, but said it was possible if time is not lost to bad weather.
 - AH discussed the second report from Gwynn Davies 'STRI' since his last visit on the 23rd Nov. It included comments about our acquisition of a slitter since his Aug report and several other positive comments on the work done so far, recommended by him. This second short report will be placed alongside the original for members to read and included in the GD report for Dec.
 - DC: Machinery was booked for Monday 6th Dec, the greens team will commence excavation of two new bunkers on the 9th. The repair work will also begin, turf is on order for the two filled in bunkers 9th. Drainage lanes will be filled and slowly return the damaged areas back to 'in use' GUR will remain in place until all the repairs are completed.
 - RC asked if roping off could be done in areas where wear due to footfall and wheels, is taking a toll due to the wet spell. He commented, it is better to protect these areas before they become too damaged, this has worked on the 3rd green side. Roping off could help reduce wear along the side of the 13th green towards the 14th. DC was asked to look at roping off access to 14 via the woods, taking a route in front of the 7th tee up the path. This could help retain a playable surface to the side of 13th green over the winter.

- AH raised several points from the recent STRI report, one was the growth of the grass disease generally called Fusarium. DC explained his methods of dealing with this, and said the use of strong chemicals had been abolished in the last years of UKs membership in the EU, there is no current plan to allow these back into use. The disease is dormant in all grass and appears where conditions are suitable for its growth. The greens are sprayed several times at the end of the season to try to delay and reduce its growth, the best defence is very cold dry conditions. It is most suited to growing in cool, wet conditions. DC also explained the spraying could not be done on predetermined dates, if the conditions were wrong there were no need or reason to spray. He has sprayed several times over the autumn and winter, and expects the growth to recede and disappear once conditions are better for the grass to fight it naturally. This would be dryer, warmer weather, usually in the early spring. This resilience of the grass to help itself to fight disease is another by-product of the aeration of the greens, by spiking, hollow tining and now with the slitter.
- DC updated the committee on a recent half day trial of a multi-use machine that primarily collects leaves, it also can cut long grass, such as that too long for all our current mowers to cut. The machine is towed by a compact tractor, giving any hydraulic and electrical power needed. It can also scarify the fairways and any off greens areas. The trial was very successful, it copes with wet leaf collection well, which is a usual problem with most other machines. AH will investigate further the acquisition of such a machine.
- AH asked for an update on the 2nd winter tee area, DC said it would be completed for the coming weekend 4th Dec. He also opened a discussion on the development of the 14th teeing area. It was agreed to develop the path and a parking area around the winter mat. This would allow up to 4 to park equipment and play off the winter mat, or walk back to the coloured tee in play. The use of the old path along the side of the tee will be allowed to turn back to long grass. A permeant path may be laid through the trees.
- AH then opened a short discussion on drainage planning for the coming year, 2022. The committee agreed to wait and see how well the current new drainage impacts play when wet. If the outcomes are favourable future drainage of other prolific wet areas could be considered. DC said he intended to insert new drainage in the 10th RH far side (White flag end) bunker this winter, plus dealing with the blocked drainage from the 3rd LH fairway bunker. If time permits he will attempt to have all the winter course bunkers in a playing state through winter, except in those very difficult periods of extreme rainfall sometimes seen recently.
- DC explained the situation with bunkers is not a new phenomenon, sand will always block drainage, it needs a cycle of maintenance. This is time consuming and expensive, it should be done about every 5 years, but often is overlooked due to budgetary reasons. Many of our bunkers are too large and too deep, many are on a slope so the water tends to amass in the lower section rather than dissipates if the bunker is on level ground. The whole committee agreed to concentrate our efforts on the winter course drainage, as play over 14 holes is now available in competition at NGC now we have a measured winter course.
- DC said work on the 8th and 18th footpaths will commence soon, some tidying up of footpaths, such as the 14th and possibly 9th would also be done. The plan to move

the bridge on the 8th is being left till last as this is a large project, other tasks such as repairing the drainage areas and installing steps on the 9th are a priority.

- AH asked about seeding of tees now that they are being aeriated with the new slitter. DC said it is too cold to seed, this will be done as soon as average temperatures rise, probably not till march.
- AH reported two further quotes are being sought for irrigation work, once attained we can instruct a company to replace the decoders to the sprinklers. New irrigation lines need laying on some tees, this is in hand.
- DC reported: Some tree cutting has occurred on the 6th to open up the view from the rear and left of the Blue area, making the whole tee area usable. Further felling of either dead or weak trees will occur throughout the winter where the weather precludes other planned work.
- AH reported the latest update on the 13th pond repair. The contractor had suffered short term delay in delivery of specific piles for the walls of the pond. They hope to commence work on the 10th Dec 2021, but will keep us informed. Updates from the GD to members will be sent out once details are confirmed.
- After a very productive meeting, it was closed at 1800. The committee agreed to meet next, in February 2022.

○ **Outstanding and ongoing items list Reviewed 02-12-2021**

ITEM	NAME	UPDATE or ACTIONED	RAISED
Stint readings	DC	STRI report	18-08-2021
Funding plans	AH RC	Ongoing/ Agreed	07-10-2021
Footpath Surveys	AB JW	8 th 18 th to lay	02-12-2021
TORs agreement Long term plan	AH	On the Website	02-07-2020
Drainage	DC	Repairs ongoing	02-12-2021
Bunker survey	BH & JS	10 th 3 rd require drainage repair DC to action	02-12-2021
Dustbin replacement	DC & AH	Donors required Sections?	07-10-21
Tree thinning	DC JW	Ongoing	02-12-2021
OOB and hazard stakes repaint	DC	Ongoing / Due	02-12-2021
Signage	BH	New maps are up at all entry gates	02-12-2021
All 18 Tees	AH DC	Slitting in progress	02-12-2021
Greens damage repair	DC	Ongoing	07-09-2021
Irrigation	AH DC	Funding agreed	02-12-2021

Traffic lines and GUR	DC	Ongoing	02-12-2021
6 TH Ditch weeds	DC/AH	Investigating redesign ? (2022)	03-06-2021
Fill bunker 9 th bend	DC	Completed Nov 2021, grassed.	02-12-2021
Drainage plans to be publicise	AH	GUR est on 9 th 11 th & 13 th	02-12-2021
Display STRI report & update	AH	Ongoing	02-12-2021
13 th Pond repair	AH DC	Latest start date is 10 th Dec, subject materials	02-12-2021