



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

Greens Report April 2021

The Greens committee met outdoors on the 12th April, attendees and absent members have all seen the minutes a final draft sent to each; a condensed version is included in this report for members.

The recent return to golf was a long awaited and welcome event, the preparedness of the course was on the whole as planned, it can always be better and given we only had 4 weeks of full staffing prior with some disruptions due to seasonal conditions, the course looks in great shape for the time of year. The hollow tinning is starting to repair, you will notice the odd green has brown edging, we are aware of this and are content it will return to grass as soon as temperatures rise to a consistent level slightly above that which we are getting just now.

Watering sand greens while we have frosty mornings from water taken out of a natural spring, itself very cold, is not a great way to encourage grass growth. The water immediately reduces the temperature of the sand, growth immediately slows or stops. Water by sprinklers will be applied during the daytime while these lower-than-normal temperatures persist, we will use these as frequently as possible. However, this will increase as the morning temperatures rise which should be soon. You will notice the repair of the greens happens fairly quickly once we have slightly warmer days. This year we will cut the greens to a good level as soon as is possible, unlike last year when we returned in the middle of May where the greens had been left with little or no rainfall for over 10 weeks. We hope to have our usual quick surfaces back very soon to challenge you all to the most difficult aspect of golf, putting.

The winter work done last year and in the beginning of 2021 was exceptional, I hope you agree. The footpaths built give the course a distinctive quality, it's a great start to the winter work programme, something we plan to continue with plans for this coming winter ready.

Drainage is not something we usually worry about going into summer, but this year we have a couple of areas that have given us persistent problems, the 17th and 16th fairways and the right side of the 2nd. We hope to have solved the 16th with a short drain, temporarily GUR, it has a small stone covering, this is similar to the 13th and other areas where we have used this technique with some success before. Eventually the stones become overlaid with growth and blend into the rough. As a temporary measure we are looking to declare this man made and give players a free drop away if a ball lands on it, similar to GUR but we can continue to cut the grass without worrying about constantly white lining the area.

The 17th has two bad areas which we are sure is rising water not irrigation leakage, we have no irrigation in these areas, and we have had no rainfall for several weeks, but in parts the water is running fairly consistently. Past experience tells us this will dry up as the water table recedes, the lateral ditch just short of the 17th green may have to be dug out and new drainage fitted along the length to drain away this persistent seepage, this will cause some disruption and GUR will need to be established for a short while. A spot further up the 17th fairway has appeared again, GUR may be applied to this in the short term also. The message is we are investigating ways to remedy and repair these, long term we may need to install new drainage or replace old.

The area to the right of the 2nd green needs further investigation, we will probably drain this towards the ditch under the path, this also dry's in the summer but we will try to get to it very soon.

Returning to golf recently means the priorities of the Greens staff (Team) is cutting grass, we have spent most of our efforts since early March in getting the course cut to a standard to play off, the week before



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

we returned the team concentrated on greens, tees and fairways. We have asked members to refrain from using Par 3 tees to try to gain a few extra millimetres length of growth, but it's been a very slow process with the low temperatures. Staying off Par 3's till recently, using the full length and breadth of the yellow tees in non-qualifying golf has allowed a brief period of extra development that will pay off long term. Spiking, feeding and scarifying all help, but use of the whole tee box is what will allow us to have decent tees for competitive golf going forward.

Sand boxes will return on the Par 3's, you all can help by carrying divot bags with sand/soil/ seed mix and using it on divots, both on fairways and on tees where you see wear due to shots played. I'm asking the team to prioritise the tees from now on, for too long they have been a poor aspect of the course, with your help they will improve. Visitors will be asked to play from the yellow tees only, on occasions if the weather is inclement we may ask you all to use the Par 3 mats. All measures are designed to improve the grass generally, we will of course respect competitions but qualifying golf can be played off the mats if we get short term permission.

Detail is in the eye of the beholder, some people don't notice things that others do, longstanding issues become features and we accept them as norms. We don't want to accept bad detail, it's our aim to repair bald patches and tidy up the course to give it a feel of quality as well as a degree of competitiveness, the club has a reputation for having a good course, we want it to be better than just good.

The minutes of the last Greens committee are attached, all work mentioned or proposed is intended for completion in the next period, by April 2022. Included in the minutes is a table of intended winter work for paths development 2021/22. As a committee we are constantly reviewing our plan for the development of paths, it may be adopting the ideas of the meeting, in this case we may include a pathway exiting the 11th to 12th to try to reduce wear. All work is subject to budgets and other seasonal short notice work imposed on us.

Greens committee meeting minutes

Monday 12th April

Attendees. Andy Hall, Richard Carter, Dave Crampton, John Whiteley

The meeting was conducted outdoor at 1400 and included a walkabout of several holes.

- The 9th Drainage plan was explained and agreed to go ahead in autumn 2021, this would be done by an outside contractor. At the same time or during the winter work schedule, the RH greenside bunker would be reduced in size and depth by NGC greens staff.
- The 10th grass RH side of green between bunkers needs seeding and marking to direct players away and around the last bunker. If this fails to repair, we will look at turf replacement in the autumn.
- The 11th Fairway Bunkers drainage plan was explained and agreed for autumn 2021, to be done alongside the 9th work.



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

- The 11th Greenside is proposed that it needs path to keep players away from greenside on the right. The footfall and buggy traffic have little options in passing through the 11th green/9th tee, we think a path running along the base of the 9th Tee could help with reducing wear. Far too many players use the edge of the green to park buggies and carts, signage will be placed at the start of the path to indicate not to do so.
- The 11th it's proposed to have an extra sprinkler installed, making 5 in total, this should cover the apron and front of the green. This work will be scheduled for the autumn.
- The 8th to have a path from the bridge through woods away from the green. Current wear near the green is partly due to the exit path towards the 9th leads players in that direction. This path will be replaced by one well away from the greenside bank to allow the surface to be playable.
- The 8th Bridge is to have Astro turf either side covering longstanding bad wear, similar to that on the 1st, we feel turf will not knit if walking resumes in less than several months, the small bridge is not adequate or safe for buggies, being very narrow. Astra turf will resolve a longstanding problem and can link with the new path towards the bridge and 9th tee.
- The 8th fairway is to be cut 1 x mower width wider on the fence side.
- Bushes on the 8th pond have been cut back, these were unsightly and had overgrown. The new view of the green now allows full lateral use of the tee box as intended.
- The 13th Pond repair was explained and agreed to be commenced in Oct 2021. Funding planning is ongoing, the board are pressing ahead with fundraising initiatives to try to reach the £10,000 estimated cost to repair it. This work will commence in Autumn/Winter 2021
- The fallen tree 7th to be removed, it lays right side after pond.
- The 17th ditch and fairway to be repaired in Autumn/Winter 2021, this should dry up over the next few weeks. There is no irrigation in this area, with no rainfall recently we conclude this is rising water and has been seen in previous years around the same area.
- The 16th fairway, repair GUR right side fairway, will GUR for the time being. The Golf Director is investigating initiating the man-made surface repair an immovable obstruction under local rule, giving free relief under rule 16, giving a player a free drop and allowing us to remove GUR. This in time will grow over similar to the 13th and 7th fairways have done over the last few years.
- The 18th top right bunker is to have its edge trimmed next to green which is showing signs of collapse greenside. Green staff are aware of the hazard and will keep heavy machines away as best they can.
- The 18th exit to clubhouse has a worn area that is to be repaired using Astro Turfing.
- All tees are improving, some still need more growth in places, they are being cut to 10mm like the aprons. The surrounding grass in places is being allowed to grow deep. Tee boxes will be shaped to define their status, with user access cut in the longer grass to define entry and exit paths. All tees need continual attention, spiking, feeding and irrigation to gain a level of grass growth cut to 10mm to give us quality surfaces.



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

- Sand boxes will be placed back on par 3s, players can use either the scoops provided or hands to repair divots. Green staff will repair divots weekly with liberal sand/soil/seed mix sprinkling.
- Green staff will remove white tees Monday and Tuesdays. Members are requested to use yellow tees for casual golf, visitors are instructed to use yellows. The tees are under immense use with nearly 1000 rounds a week, our only hope for good competition tees is by careful use, repair and continuous attention.
- Several greens have what looks like bare edges, brown or worn. These have minute grass growth visibly present and will quickly repair as the temperature increases within the sand base. The HGK is monitoring and will treat these where necessary, we are satisfied the greens will repair in a few weeks once the summer sun returns.
- The pathway to the 10th and HWH will be completed in the next few weeks, we have laid a soil bed at the end of the wall, some players have decided to walk over it, once seeded like path edges the new grass can only survive if given a chance to grow. Please keep off newly seeded areas, some will be signed. Landscaping of the HWH area is ongoing, we are looking for suggestions and donations to brighten the rear of the HWH, a memorial area has been suggested. If any members wish to join to establish this area and idea further, please contact Andy Hall at greensdirector@normantongolf.co.uk with your proposal or ideas for our consideration.

Path plan for 2021-23 (Andy Bell)

Hole	2021	2022	2023
1		from existing to bridge	
2			
3	Completed		
4			
5	Completed		
6	Completed		
7			
8		from bridge through trees to join bridge through to 9 th	
9		from existing to start of fairway	
10	Completed		
11	Completed		
12		join existing 2 paths so all par 3's has full paths	
13			
14			through trees to beyond winter tee
15			from front of tee to fairway start
16			from back of teeing ground to over road
17			from back of tee to start of fairway
18		replace matting in trees & to beyond old ladies' tee	

Andy Hall,
Greens Director.