

MINUTES OF GREENS MEETING HELD 25th NOVEMBER 2015

Present Bruce Allison ELC: Andy Hendry Kevin Willis WGC green convenors:
Craig Pennyquick, Stevie Nicol & Scott Higgins WGC green keepers.

Minutes.

This was a meeting to go over the points raised in our meeting of 15th October.

1st Tee pathway

A progress report was given by Bruce. He had tasked Dougie Fox with producing a practical solution that ticked all the boxes. Affordability, H&S compliant and usefulness to the players. Depending on H&S for the gradient, it has been suggested that a thick durable Astroturf carpet could be laid down the pathway. This could be fixed to the wooden runners on either side. If this is workable it will should solve the problem with electric trolleys. A fence to block people walking down the side of the path is to be erected.

Pathways at 1, 9, 12 and 16

It had been agreed to repair the paths on the above holes with rolled scallops, but with the Council obtaining extra width Astroturf in lengths, it has been agreed to look at replacing the existing paths with Astroturf like the pathway at 14. This should give a more even footing as well as looking better. The path from the car park exit to the 9th tee will also benefit from this work.

13th Tee

Work will be undertaken very soon to erect a small fence to alert golfers to the sudden drop at the back of the tee into the adjoining garden. H&S in evidence.

Robot

It was asked when the hill at 1 would be cut with the use of the robot. **Bruce will chase this up and get back to us IDC.**

Sleepers

An update on the anti slip material for the sleepers at 1st tees and 14th tee. Craig pointed out that the sleepers had to be perfectly dry before the adhesive would bond with the sleepers. It was felt that it would be prudent to line the sleeper with plywood and bond the anti slip material to that. The problem has become more relevant with the use of soft stud shoes that do slip on the wet sleepers. Green keepers to follow this up.

Winter Programme

A conversation took place on the winter programme. Clearly proposed work on the bunkers would be carried out, weather permitting and also in line with any additional work mentioned above. Craig pointed out that work was well underway on bunkers at 2 and 17. He hoped that this work would be completed before Christmas, weather permitting. Only then would another two bunkers be tackled. We talked about the bunker changes at 5 and 6. The green keepers want to widen the fairway bunkers as well as lengthening them. This would reduce the landing area at both holes creating a risk and reward scenario for bigger hitters. Also the bunkers would be shaped in such a way as to give golfers a better chance of reaching the green with a recovery shot. There is a possibility of the new shapes being marked in blue so that we can see the changes, as long as nobody sees this as GUR. Scott fully intends to keep the greenside aprons going through the winter as long as weather

permits.

Local Rule for Winter

Due to the heavy rain of late it was agreed at the men's committee meeting 26-11-2015 that any ball plugged in the rough could be rolled out of the plug mark after agreement with playing partner. The ball cannot not be lifted or cleaned regardless of any mud sticking to it.

New Watering System

At our last meeting Andrew Hogarth and Bruce Allison from ELC had surprised us with talk of a new watering system for the course. Andrew felt that funding might be obtainable and Eamon John would know the best way to apply for it. He said that Bruce and himself would approach Eamon John to "test the water" before we make any formal approach. **Bruce had forgotten about this and promised to make this a priority and get back to us with the Council's views on the matter.**

Tee Markers

At our last meeting I had asked about new tee signs in view of the remeasure of the course. Bruce felt that this should be down to the club to finance this. I raised the point at our committee meeting 26-11-2015 and it was felt that as the course is owned by ELC they should as a minimum supply proper distance markers for all tees. Also new scorecards are needed. Bruce has now stated the matter should be taken up with Ian Sills at Enjoy Leisure as they manage the course as an arms length trust. I will take this up.

Summing up

I think everyone was happy with the points raised at our meeting. I stated that members as well as guests had commented on how well the course was holding up with the weather and also how well the greens were coming back after extensive Verti draining.

I feel that having all green keepers at these meetings gives them a chance to have there say and respond to points raised directly.

Next meeting planned for January after seasonal festivities and holidays. Bruce will follow up on points outlined above and will get back to Greens conveners as needed.

Andy to email Bruce on specific follow up points.

**Andy Hendry
WGC**