

# Minutes of the Greens Committee Meeting held in the Club House at 1:00pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Club officials present:

Cath Clowes – Operations Manager  
Terry Payne – Handicap & Competitions Secretary  
Nancy Mackman – Lady Representative  
Stuart Boags – Member  
Andy Overton - Member  
Gary Wood – Acting Head Green keeper

Apologies:

Tom Craig – Chairman

The committee welcomes Andy Overton to his first meeting and Gary Wood for standing in at short notice.

The minutes from the last meeting were read and agreed as a true reflection of events.

- **Matters arising**

None

- **Identifying hole positions on elevated greens**

The trial for sliding flags on certain holes to indicate where the holes are in relation to the centre of the green has worked well and will be extended to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> greens. ....action: **Gary Wood**

- **Course work during the winter period**

- **Extended ditch across the 12<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> hole**

- This work is now completed, and a new bridge has been erected to the left of the fairway. At the present time the centre fairway bridge will be kept (but may be roped off occasionally if it becomes muddy) and will be re-assessed if water passage under this area becomes a problem.
- The pipes that were excavated from the ditch will be removed and put into storage for possible use elsewhere. ....action: **Gary Wood**

- **Tree pruning**

- Removing branches from the large beech tree to the left of the 12<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> driving area to improve the 'view' from the 18<sup>th</sup> white tee will now be sub-contracted to a tree surgeon. ....action: **Cath Clowes**
- Further tree pruning will be undertaken throughout the winter period to remove some of the bottom branches from trees to give better access for the mower(s) and/or shot playing. ....action: **Gary Wood**

- **Greens and Tees Maintenance**
  - The planned hollow core work scheduled for week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> March is to be re-assessed in light of the experience from last year whereby the greens did not recover until well into May from this work.  
Gary will seek advice from the people that would normally provide the equipment for this work, but it may be that a more frequent spiking arrangement would be favourable, which we could perform ourselves.  
.....action: **Gary Wood**
  - Some of the new tees have not progressed as would have been hoped and some advice will be sought as to whether we should be using a different type of grass or if it would be more cost effective to turf these areas.  
.....action: **Gary Wood / Cath Clowes**
- **Ongoing Course Maintenance**
  - A fully costed programme of works will be produced so that a realistic budget can be set and a 'five year' plan mapped out.  
.....action: **Consultant / Gary Wood / Cath Clowes**
  - Temporary help will be sought to assist Gary until such time as a permanent Head green Keeper is installed. ....action: **Cath Clowes**
- **Winter Rules**
  - The use of mats or teeing up has again been successful in preserving the fairways through this winter therefore a new supply of fairway mats is to be obtained for sale or hire for next winter. ....action: **Cath Clowes**

**Any other business:**

**Tom Craig: (via e-mail in his absence)**

- What plans are in place for course maintenance considering recent happenings:
  - *Secretary's note:* this was covered in the minutes above.
- Can the white tee markers be put out before the season starts as he would like the players for the Taskers team to get some practice before a home match is played – probably in the last week of March.  
It was agreed to do this from mid-March. ....action: **Gary Wood**
- Tom wanted clarification of a new rule, but it was agreed that this was not a matter for this meeting and will be dealt with elsewhere.

**Stuart Boags:**

- Stuart felt that some dilution of the greens committee role had occurred with the operations committee overlapping in this area and that communications had been poor.
  - *Secretary's note:* it was unfortunate from a timing point of view that the operations committee took place only three days before the greens committee and two days after the release of the head green keeper.  
The operations committee was duty bound to discuss what options were available under this circumstance and some overlap was therefore inevitable.
- Stuart stated that some of the 'winter tees' – particularly the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> needed to be flatter and this should be addressed before next winter

**Nancy Mackman:**

- What is happening to the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> tee?  
After discussion the decision was to leave this tee as it is and to remove the 'spoil heap' that was planned as a new 2<sup>nd</sup> tee. The ditch to the right of this tee will no longer be extended leftwards. The path from the gents 2<sup>nd</sup> tees will go to the left of the ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> tee thus stopping people going across the ladies' tee as happens now. ....action: **Gary Wood / Cath Clowes**
- Nancy stated that the bridge from the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> green to the pathway to the 8<sup>th</sup> tees (through the trees) had some planks loose and that the checker plate on the bridge leading to the ladies 8<sup>th</sup> tee (via the other route) needed attention.  
It was agreed that the Health and Safety team should look at all bridges and assess any remedial work that was required.  
.....action: **H & S / Gary Wood / Cath Clowes**

**Andy Overton:**

- Stated that the pathways that had been extended using 20mm to dust aggregate was much better and kinder to trolleys and buggies and should be adopted for all future pathway work. He also stated that in his experience it should be cheaper to purchase.

**Terry Payne:**

- Terry stated that the planned pathway extension from the 7<sup>th</sup> green to the 8<sup>th</sup> tees should not go ahead. If done the path would be too close to the 7<sup>th</sup> green and would present a problem for anybody who went long with their approach to the green.  
After discussion it was agreed not to continue with this work but that the 20mm to dust aggregate that we already had would be better employed in extending the path across the front of the 1<sup>st</sup> tee(s) which was a high traffic area.
- Terry stated that a lot of work was 'in progress' on the course and that what was needed was a plan of works that set and listed priorities.  
This is in line with the 'costed programme of works' mentioned earlier in the minutes.
- The Out of Bounds area to the right of the 12<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> fairways should be re-assessed considering the direction of play from the new 18<sup>th</sup> tee with the O.O.B. needing to be the line of the hedge.  
After discussion it was decided that the whole of this internal O.O.B. area should be removed with the area adjacent to the 12<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> fairway becoming semi-rough, with some of the lower tree branches being removed.  
.....action: **Gary Wood**
- Following on from the above Terry stated that the 'right of way' would be better if it was on the other side of the hedge and effectively not part of the normal playing area.  
This will be looked at with a view to the survey that was carried out 3 years ago when the way markers where installed to see if any flexibility can be used to move the line of the right of way. ....action: **Cath Clowes**
- Terry asked if anything could be done with the weed that had been pulled out of the 'top' pond as it was unsightly and now starting to sprout roots.  
It was felt that the only option was to remove this and dispose of. For that we would need a grab and trailer and that this could also be used for moving some of the accumulated soil heaps which could be put to better use. Option for this to be explored. ....action: **Cath Clowes**

**Gary Wood:**

- Gary asked if it would be a good idea to remove the semi-rough from around the fairway bunkers at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fairways and from the bank after the ditch on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole. It would make mowing considerable easier in these areas as he wouldn't need to do extra turns and therefore save time.  
After discussion it was agreed this was sensible and that he should go ahead.  
.....action: **Gary Wood**
- The pathways to the 7<sup>th</sup> White tee and from the 11<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> White tees need looking at to define lines that are safe from people playing from these tees concurrently.  
Further review of this area is required. ....action: **ALL**

**Addendum:**

After the meeting Stuart stated that after 4 years as chairman and latterly as a member he was standing down and a new committee member will now be sought as his replacement.  
Our thanks go to Stuart for his contribution over the last few years which has been invaluable in moving this club forward.

**Date of next meeting:**

**TBA pending confirmation of permanent Head Green Keeper**