

Course - Improvements and maintenance update:

General

A number of areas of the course are suffering during the winter period. We have mandated a significant increase in the areas protected by posts and ropes, while this may impact on aesthetics it should improve course recovery in the spring. Some have been implemented but others are to be introduced. Please keep to paths and do not cross roped areas, the damage done over the winter may not recover until the end of the next playing season.

It is your course, please look after it for your own and the benefit of other members. This includes using divot mix on tees and replacing divots on fairways, though we will repeat the divot filling exercise we first did last year in the next few weeks. Replacing divots reduces the work for the greenstaff and allows them to do more work on the course.

As with the new 3rd tee, we are looking at low cost ways to enhance the course for the benefit of all members. Please send any suggestions to the Chair of Greens via the Secretary Manager.

Trees

On a general note, there are too many trees, many of which are not really appropriate to a golf course, and they are typically too close together to allow for full growth, so we do not propose automatically replacing trees we remove. Should members wish to donate memorial trees please contact the Greens Chair, Peter Kiernan, so we can choose an appropriate tree and agree on placement.

A substantial amount of tree work has been agreed. There are two main reasons for these trees being removed. Some are being removed to increase light and ventilation to affected greens and tees. Others are being removed to allow adjacent trees to fully develop. In the main these are conifers but other trees are involved.

One specific area worth mentioning is the tree behind and to the right of the pond on 18; this is in fact four trees: the main conifer, a smaller conifer, a Christmas tree and an Ash tree. This has been removed and Martin Salmon has generously offered to replace these with a Monkey Puzzle tree which should make for a pleasing look.

Course drainage

Some holes on the course get very wet and will periodically have surface water on them, necessitating substantial use of the temporary greens. Ideally we should improve drainage on these holes both to improve the condition of the greens generally but also to reduce dependence on the temporary greens.

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for drainage works to a number of holes. This is likely to be expensive. One quote for work to the 5th Hole is £7500, Once the quotes come in I propose suggesting options to members for a levy. We will look to balance the overall cost and the size of the levy to keep this manageable.

Tees

We need to embark on a programme of tee improvements, many are not level for example. Resources are limited so this cannot be implemented this "off season" but we will be looking at options to keep costs down.

Greens

The spring course maintenance programme will include a new approach. We propose using a different method on a sample of greens. The method should offer a much improved recovery time as well as being much better for the long term health of the greens themselves. We are trialling this as it is expensive, £850 for 4 holes for equipment hire and materials. If successful we would consider acquiring the equipment but this would depend on finances.