

## **COURSE UPDATE – WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

### **1. Automated Irrigation System**

Members will have noticed the work already done around the perimeter of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> greens where new irrigation pipes and pop-up sprinklers have been installed.

This improvement to our course infrastructure will allow our green staff to remotely program and adjust the amount of water our greens require throughout the year. This in turn will allow staff to maintain the cut and speed of the greens during the playing season, and as the system is remotely operated, this removes the dependency for staff having to be on site at unsocial hours.

The irrigation will spread the water more evenly and can also help the sounding areas such as the right-hand side of 5<sup>th</sup>.

Aa drain was also put in at the 5<sup>th</sup> at the left-hand side to stop water coming off the banking on the green.

This work is planned to be completed in the next few weeks. Meantime, the areas marked are to be treated as GUR.

### **2 4<sup>th</sup> Hole – New Tee**

As the original teeing area has moved and become uneven over the years a new tee is in the process of being built to replace the existing yellow & red teeing area. This tee is planned to be ready for play when the season starts.

A large new winter mat is also being put in on the tee.

### **3 15<sup>th</sup> Fairway – Drainage Issues**

This fairway suffers from drainage issues, where water lies on the surface and is not being drained away due to the compaction of the soil. To address this, a new 'mole plough' has been purchased and this will be used in an attempt to allow more water to drain from underneath the fairway. This work will commence this month and we will then assess if this has made any improvement.

### **4 5<sup>th</sup> Hole – Removal of Bushes**

The club looked at changing both the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> holes so that they were par 5's from both the white and the yellow tees. However, the associated costs & impact of remeasuring the course does not make this feasible in the short term.

Therefore, to encourage golfers to play to the 5<sup>th</sup> green with their second shots, some of the bushes are being removed from the right-hand side of the green, the land will be levelled off (where possible) and the path to the right of the green will have an edge added to it.

These changes are intended to stop any balls that land short from rolling into the bushes and being lost, or penalised. Instead, a permanent dropping zone will be created so golfers can get relief if they do roll onto the path.

In previous years, the length of the grass in this area was to be kept high to provide protection from excessive rolling downhill, but due to the compaction of the soil, the grass did not grow enough.

### **5 Tee Mats**

A few of the mats are in need of recovering and repair. Some also do not take a long tee, these will be looked at this month by the greenkeeping staff.

### **6 Academy**

Plans are to develop the area around the practice green by building a couple of new bunkers and filling in another to create an area where all golfers are hitting the ball in the same direction to the practice green.

The bunkers on the range that were built for the Footgolf will be filled in – this makes it a lot easier for the range balls to be collected.

## **7 Other Improvements**

One other item that is planned for the coming season is the installation of a marker board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee that will indicate the position of the flag on the 2<sup>nd</sup> green (front / middle / back). The second shot to this hole is blind, so the introduction of this board will provide golfers additional information to assess their approach shot.

If any member has any questions or suggestions, please can you contact Mike Robson, the Club Manager who will forward on your concerns to myself and Mike Keogh, the Course Manager

Thank You

Forsyth Henderson  
Greens Convenor.

Mike Keogh  
Course Manager

31<sup>st</sup> January 2023