

## Greens report for period April - May 2010

Committee Meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Present: Steve Trowsdale, Chairman, Paul Bang, Club Capt., Stuart Hardy, Colin Fairley & Derrick Arden.

Committee Meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Present: Steve Trowsdale, Chairman, Colin Fairley & Derrick Arden. Apologies received from Paul Bang & Stuart Hardy.

The meetings were convened for the purposes of walking the course, reviewing the current course conditions and to discuss issues regarding any remedial or additional maintenance work seen to be required. Also consideration was given to ideas for potential course improvements and any future projects to be undertaken.

1. Progress on the site of the new machinery wash down area was viewed, see picture. CF explained the reasons for the project and the potential costs associated with having the work done by outside contractors. Work required to finish the project was discussed and it was agreed to complete the works utilising in house labour. Concrete & shuttering to complete the project will cost approximately £500, breeze blocks may be obtained through donation.
2. In addition to point 1, it was further agreed to consider the making of a new access road from the sheds to the course. This would entail moving the access road nearer to the boundary line, up as far as the wash down area, then continuing up the tree line and allowing the dispersement of machines from the area next to the pump house.
3. The site of the old 4<sup>th</sup> hole was discussed in terms of any plans for its future use. It was decided to maintain the area to enable substitution for any hole taken out of play.
4. The new tee arrangements on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole were discussed in light of the wear to the back tee area. The situation will be monitored by CF and if necessary will move the white tee markers onto the front tee and move the yellow markers to a position behind the ladies tee. If this action is found to be necessary ST will discuss arrangements with the H&C Committee to establish that competition requirements are met.
5. The access paths in the area were discussed with regard to the top coating required. A number of options were considered but the most cost effective solution seemed to be tarmac chippings. This discussion covered all the paths on the course. Tarmac chippings have been obtained to complete the dressing of the paths as required at a cost of £302 for 20 tons
6. An area of brushwood was identified in the wooded area to the left of the fairway on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole. This will be moved by greens staff during their normal course clearing exercise.
7. The 4<sup>th</sup> green apron area was noted by CF to be very sparse of grass, work has been and is continuing to be done to remedy the problem but some warm weather and rain would assist in recovery of this area.
8. The spoil stored to the right of the 5<sup>th</sup> tee has been contoured and seeded to make the site more aesthetically pleasing when the grass comes through.
9. There are both spoil and brushwood heaps in the woods to the left of the 5<sup>th</sup> hole & to the rear of the 13<sup>th</sup> green; these will be tidied up as soon as practicable, when machinery is in the area.
10. The rough to the right of the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway will continue to be cut to the current controlled rough height, the same procedure as present, up to the OB

markers. This will avoid the extra time that would be involved with altering & resetting the cutters and will also maintain consistency with the rest of the course.

11. The undulating area in front of the 5<sup>th</sup> green was viewed in response to CF's view that the turf should be lifted and the area flattened. This would give a more consistent approach to the green and provide a site for a temporary green in winter conditions.
12. The 5<sup>th</sup> green also needs the drainage improving as does the 8<sup>th</sup>, consideration should be given to making both items part of the next winter programme.
13. CF pointed out the unevenness of the front area of the 6<sup>th</sup> tee and recommended that levelling it should be part of next winters programme, this was agreed.
14. CF also pointed out the difficulties associated with bringing the old 6<sup>th</sup> winter tee back into use. The surrounding trees would need a trim to allow the area light and avoid the dripping of water/sap etc onto the surface. CF will explore the work required and also the alternative option of installing a large synthetic tee mat.
15. Pictures were taken of the vandalism to the security fence down the right side of the 6<sup>th</sup> hole. There is no easy solution to this problem. A variety of possible improvements were discussed but the expense involved, with no guarantee of success in stopping determined entry, is hard to justify.
16. The 8<sup>th</sup> teeing area was reviewed and although not quite there, is almost ready to be put back into use. ST & CF will review it again next week.
17. The changes to the bunker area adjacent to the 12<sup>th</sup> green were viewed. Although the turf etc is improving, we again need the weather to cooperate in getting it settled down and knitted in.
18. The 13<sup>th</sup> teeing area is now looking much better, the spoil/top soil in front of the yellow teeing ground has been contoured and seeded, and the new grass is just beginning to show through.
19. The wooded area to the left of the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway adjacent to the dogleg has been cleared and we have had many positive comments in what is generally regarded a great improvement. A discussion took place about extending the area to be cleared nearer to the 13<sup>th</sup> green, this matter was not resolved.
20. The wooded area adjacent to the track leading from the 13<sup>th</sup> green to the 11<sup>th</sup> tee contains a number of larch trees that need to be removed. Some trees are leaning dangerously and could fall before too long, CF will mark up the trees he thinks should go and make a recommendation on the replacements.
21. There are also some larch trees next to the shelter on the 11<sup>th</sup> tee that are also considered to be dangerous, one of which threatens the shelter.
22. Brushwood behind the 10<sup>th</sup> green is to be removed/burnt and the top soil heap contoured and seeded similar to that near the 5<sup>th</sup> tee. CF will progress those items as soon as practicable. There is also a burnt tree (vandalised) that CF will examine to see if it has any chance of recovering.
23. A poor area of ground at the rear of the right hand bunker on the 10<sup>th</sup> was viewed and CF will provide details of work necessary to cure the problem.
24. The possibility of putting a path leading from the approach of the 10<sup>th</sup> green and round the tree line to the left of the bunker/green area and leading to the 11<sup>th</sup> tee was proposed. This will be potentially added to the winter programme.

In addition it was proposed to extend the pathway on the 9<sup>th</sup> from the ladies tee up to the top of the bank leading to but stopping short of the fairway.

25. The regular flooding area to the right of the 14<sup>th</sup> fairway was discussed but the problems associated with drainage to this area are difficult to remedy, further consideration will need to be given to possible ways of creating the required drainage before we could think of moving forward on this project.
26. Whilst looking at the 14<sup>th</sup> green and the rye grass content, CF suggested the possibility of not using the groomers on the greens mowers at the moment; this would allow the rye to produce more leaf area. This condition would give the recently trialled rescue treatment, (a herbicide that controls and kills Rye grass in fine turf), a better chance of removing and controlling the rye in areas treated. Communication with the members would be necessary so they would understand the reason for possibly slower putting surfaces. We have treated the greens with Primomax 2 weeks ago, This week we put the 1<sup>st</sup> major application of spring & summer fertilizer in preparation for the application of the Rescue Rye grass treatment within the next 14 days, dependent on weather. Once applied it will take up to 6 weeks to see the full effect of the treatment. Any follow up treatments then required would be done during the course maintenance week.
27. Discussion was lively on the prospects for utilising the land behind the 14<sup>th</sup> tee running down to Burniston Road. Practice area, driving range, tree nursery, visitor chalets etc. Nothing resolved but a topic that needs to be addressed as there is a substantial piece of unused land available for something.
28. The view from the course across to the green keepers sheds was discussed. There are some laurels planted but they will take some time to provide a screen. In the short term it was suggested that we extend the mound that has been created recently, using the spoil already available in the yard. Also, that we paint the sheds a shade of green to make them blend in a little better. Further ideas to improve the view or least make the area less apparent will be considered.
29. The new gates installed on the Burniston Road entrances will be left as galvanised but CF will arrange to have the gate posts painted with the silver Hammerite paint as used on the club house hand rails.
30. Consideration is to be given to adding some feature, such as a bunker (visible from the teeing areas) on the right of the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway to protect the area where the road bends in towards the course. Some additional trees or a bunker have been suggested. Comment was also passed on the possibility of removing the old concrete blockhouse/pillbox; this will need to be investigated and if progressed permission from the LA may be required.
31. SH requested that consideration be given to clearing out the Elder/Buttery bushes in the small copses behind the 3<sup>rd</sup> and to the side of the 9<sup>th</sup> greens, also in the wood between the 13<sup>th</sup> green and 11<sup>th</sup> tee. This would create opportunity for the young trees to develop and improve the look of both areas.
32. The grass bunker on the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> fairway is filling in quite well & we plan have the GUR removed by the end of May
33. Area on the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> green will require further work, renovation work will include coring and over seeding, to bring it up to the required standard.
34. Two trees between the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> fairways have been identified as requiring some pruning and eventual replacement. Both are white beam trees.

35. The previous proposal to change the positioning of the 17<sup>th</sup> tee was reviewed. This item was left in abeyance, to be discussed again once the recently planted trees between the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> fairways have grown to give greater protection to golfers.
36. Undulations in front of the 17<sup>th</sup> green give similar problems to those on the 5<sup>th</sup> and consideration will be given to flattening this area at an appropriate time.
37. Regarding bunkers in general throughout the course, consideration is being given to purchasing a different sand type called Bunker Sand 2 supplied by Whitemoss. This sand, slightly larger in grain size, would be introduced into the current Mansil sand to improve the mixture in terms of a consistency to both improve drainage and reduce removal by wind. The anticipated improvement would come at a cost, the new sand being approximately £10 per ton more expensive. The improvement would be progressive as the percentage of new sand increases through being introduced during replenishment.
38. The Derwent Buying Group has been useful in terms of acquiring certain goods at improved pricing, however, we still need to purchase some items from former suppliers to ensure the products we use we do not contravene environmental laws.

As always, please feel free to contact the undersigned or any member of the greens committee for further detail on any of the above points.

Steve Trowsdale  
Greens Chairman  
07/05/10