

Minutes of Ground Committee meeting held 10th December, 2009.

Present: Steve Kelsall (SK), Gary Higgins (GH), John Cragg (JC).

Apologies for absence: Bill McKinney (BM), Pat Keane (PK), Steve Marr (SM).

GH reported that the following work had been carried in the past month:

- Greens have been slit tined and star tined.
- Greens have been hand cut.
- Selected greens have been sprayed with liquid aeration and fungibooster.
- Tees and compacted areas round the course have been vertidraind.
- Winter greens have been sprayed for worms and cut.
- The damaged irrigation box behind the 7th green has been replaced.
- Conifer hedges have been trimmed. A section of the hedge round the 5th tee has been removed to allow easier maintenance of the tee and of the hawthorn hedge alongside the tee.
- A walk through gap has been made in the hedge adjacent to the 11th tee.
- Extra paving has been laid in front of the shoe cleaning area.
- The railway sleeper step on the 9th tee has been replaced with a grass slope.
- New drains have been installed behind the 15th tee, on the right of the 16th fairway and on the right of the 7th fairway.
- Soil has been brought to the area alongside the 8th green to create a low mound.
- A pop-up sprinkler head on the 12th green has been repositioned.
- A new drain has been installed at the bottom of the ramp from the car park and the track from the sheds to the washdown area has been scraped.
- The open ditch running into the pond adjacent to the 16th tee has been cleared out.
- Breather pipes have been added to drains near the greens on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th.
- More leaves have been collected.
- Drains in front of the 6th green have been opened and rodded.

Work for the coming month will include:

- Finishing collecting leaves
- Continuing to slit tine and cut greens (with pedestrian mower) as required.
- Edging the path alongside the 14th tee and covering with Toptrac gravel (ground conditions permitting).
- Finish constructing the new path at the rear right of the 15th green.
- Investigating more wet areas of fairways and rough and rectifying problems if possible.
- Extending and renovating the path onto the 2nd fairway.

The problem of water filled and compacted bunkers has been discussed with M&H. It has been agreed that the grounds staff will put "Out of play" signs in those bunkers where it is unrealistic to drop a ball within the bunker. In this situation a player should drop his ball, without penalty, outside the bunker keeping the bunker in line with the flag.

JC has drawn up a list of areas where new paths or the extension of existing paths would be of benefit. These have been prioritised and will be put in hand as and when time and finance

is available. It is hoped that a good start will be made to this list before the new season starts.

As a result of the heavy rainfall in November there are a number of very wet areas around the course. On the whole the greens have stood up to the weather quite well but areas close to greens and tees have suffered and are now susceptible to lasting damage from foot traffic and trolleys. Recently there have been complaints from members that the course was unfit for play. To address this issue the Greens Committee believe it would be to everyone's benefit if the Club was more ready to postpone or call off a competition if underfoot conditions were likely to be poor. Doing this would release members from the obligation to turn out and would mean that anyone who still wanted to play could do so on a shortened course. The result would be less damage to the course and no complaints from reluctant participants.

Date of next meeting: January 14th (TBC)