

# Minutes of the Greens Committee Meeting held in the Club House at 1:00pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Club officials present:

Tom Craig – Chairman  
Cath Clowes – Operations Manager  
Terry Payne – Handicap & Competitions Secretary  
Andy Overton – Member Representative  
Kevin Jones – Member Representative  
Ben Archer – Head Green keeper

Apologies:

Nancy Mackman – Lady Representative

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

- **Matters arising**

- **Bridge survey**  
Completed – a program of works will be done in the coming months
- **Different coloured flags**  
Orders will be placed next spring
- **Move public footpath (side of 12<sup>th</sup> hole)**  
Hedge flailing still to be done, when time permits
- **Mole catching contract**  
In hand – will be completed shortly

- **General:**

- **Greenkeeper**  
An appointment has now been made to an Assistant Greenkeeper and he should be able to commence from week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> October.  
Once in the role, there will be two permanent full time greens staff, which we have never had before (one always being part time).  
In the meantime, help has been drafted in from CWC every Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
- **Greens Slitting**  
Hindsight would suggest that the recent work was a bit too severe, although the weather has been against us during the recovery phase.  
It is interesting to note that the greens consisting of mainly 'bent grass' (the 7<sup>th</sup> is a good example) have recovered much quicker than those with mixed grasses.  
The contractors employed for the job stated that 'they had rarely seen as much thatch removed' as had occurred during the process – which can only be good in the longer term.  
This work is required every year and will be planned for early August next year when recovery should be quicker.  
In addition to the required slitting in August – aerating of the greens will be done in the spring.

- **Equipment**

The 'new' fairway mower is due for delivery on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

This equipment had been used by Chelsea football club and had had only 500 hours of use. It has been fully re-furbished and should be good for at least another 3,500 hours of use (approximately 4 years)

We have obtained a leaf blower which is being used to clear the greens, however the leaves are not collected so will still be around the greens. If we were to invest in a leaf collector (at significant cost) we have nowhere to put these leaves which can accumulate into large areas and take a considerable time to rot down.

- **Winter work program**

A program of intended winter work has been posted on the white board with this year's concentration being on the first six holes.

Contractors will be on site for one and a half days in early October to start the work.

All the fairways and tees will be slit and over-seeded as part of this program.

- **Winter tees**

From the start of the winter league (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October) the white tees will be taken out of use to give them a rest.

The 4<sup>th</sup> tee will generally be played from the mat.

The 5<sup>th</sup> tee will be from the forward positions but will remain a par 4.

A winter mat will be employed on the 6<sup>th</sup> tee that can/will be moved to different positions to give that tee a rest particularly as the 16<sup>th</sup> tee will be closed with the 6<sup>th</sup> being used twice for anybody playing 18 holes.

The 8<sup>th</sup> tee will generally be played from the mat.

The 'old' yellow 9<sup>th</sup> tee (i.e. across the water) will be in use for the winter league.

The preferred method of playing the round being to leave the 7<sup>th</sup> green via the bridge to the right (the area either side of the 7<sup>th</sup> green will be roped off) and go and hit your tee shot to the 8<sup>th</sup> hole. Then to come back to this 9<sup>th</sup> tee and hit another ball off that tee which will become the ball in play for that hole. Then finish playing the 8<sup>th</sup> hole before moving to the 9<sup>th</sup> hole to play the alternative ball.

- **Winter conditions rules**

From the 7<sup>th</sup> October when trolleys are in use then either wide wheels or hedgehog wheels must be used.

If the 'No Trolleys' sign is posted (either on the website or at the course) then that means NO TROLLEYS. Carry bags only will be permitted.

All shots from the fairway must be either played from a tee or (preferably) from a mat.

Pick clean and place is allowed without penalty in all areas (including the rough) except hazards. The placing must be not nearer the hole and be within a score card length.

If the ball is in a hazard it must be either played as it lies or be pick cleaned and placed not nearer the hole for 1 penalty shot.

- **Course open/closed**

To find out if the course is open, please refer to the Brailsford Golf Club website (under 'Course'), or if ringing the club, use option 3 to get the required recorded message from the Head Greenkeeper.

If ringing early in the morning a recorded message will be left from about 07.50 giving course details.

- **Hole 1:**  
 The left hand fairway bunker has been filled in and over seeded. It is currently G.U.R. and will be brought back in play later in the year.  
**Work being done early October (weather permitting):**  
 The left hand greenside bunker is difficult to maintain in bad weather as it does not drain easily, therefore during the winter period this will be removed and the area contoured into a mound.  
 The 'new' ditch to the right hand side of the fairway will be re-shaped to a smoother contour to allow easier maintenance. ....action: **Ben Archer**
- **Hole 2:**  
 The green is in the process of being re-shaped, although it will probably be next year before this is completed.  
**Work being done early October (weather permitting):**  
 The right hand greenside bunker will be raised up and re-banked during the winter period to allow the sand to be seen from the fairway approach.  
 The left hand greenside area has been re-shaped to a grass hollow in the shape of a 'peanut' although work is now required to aerate the area, as during re-shaping the ground has become compacted. ....action: **Ben Archer**
- **Hole 3:**  
 No issues at present, although drainage will be monitored throughout the winter.  
 ....action: **None**
- **Hole 4:**  
 As mentioned previously play will be from the mat.  
**Work being done early October (weather permitting):**  
 The right hand side amongst the trees is to be scrubbed out (early winter from October) to clear some of the area and give better visibility and let more light in between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> holes. These two holes will be closed for two days to allow this work to be done.  
 ....action: **Ben Archer**
- **Hole 5:**  
 Again, as before, all play will be from the forward tees. ....action: **Ben Archer**
- **Hole 6:**  
 New movable mat in play from the tee.  
**Work being done early October (weather permitting):**  
 The height of the front bunker banking will be lessened and re-shaped to make maintenance easier. ....action: **Ben Archer**
- **Hole 7:**  
 The path leading from the green to the 8<sup>th</sup> tee will be closed through the winter period to allow over seeding and other improvements. Traffic to the 8<sup>th</sup> tee will be re-directed over the bridge to the right of the green and through the trees.  
 ....action: **Ben Archer**
- **Hole 8:**  
 The back tee has been over seeded but requires further work before becoming fully in play. Some of the holly behind the white tee will be cut back to allow this tee to become deeper and give more teeing areas.  
 This tee will not be used throughout the winter period so work will be done when weather and time permit. ....action: **Ben Archer**

- Hole 9:**  
 The alternative white tee near the 8<sup>th</sup> green will be taken out of play altogether with the 'tiger tee' being preferred. This will not affect the stroke index or the slope rating of the course as both tees were considered during the assessment earlier in the year.  
 The left hand greenside bunker has been filled in and is currently G.U.R. until the grass has developed. ....action: **Ben Archer**
- Hole 10:**  
 Consideration is to be given to have winter mats installed (this is also possible for all the par threes) to the left of the hole at about 150 yds from the centre of the green.  
 The pond to the right of the green will over time be more sculptured with plants added as necessary.  
**Work being done early October (weather permitting):**  
 The pond to the left of the teeing area will have some of the weed removed and grass carp introduced to control the aquatic weed growth keep the water clean. ....action: **Ben Archer**
- Hole 11:**  
**Work now put off until next year:**  
 The left hand fairway bunker will be raised up and have the bank shaped such that it will be visible from the tee.  
 The 1<sup>st</sup> left hand greenside bunker will be re-assessed with a view to adjusting the height / shape of the bank and possibly bringing it more around the front of the green.  
 .....action: **Ben Archer**
- Hole 12:**  
 No issues at present. ....action: **None**
- Hole 13:**  
 The pine tree adjacent to the white tee box will be removed mid-October.  
 .....action: **Ben Archer**
- Hole 16:**  
 Removed from play for the winter period to allow the tees some recovery time.  
 .....action: **Ben Archer**
- Hole 18:**  
 The proposed white tee to the left of the existing 12<sup>th</sup> tee is to be re-assessed and modified. This is likely to be a raised extension to the existing tee forming an 'L' shape which will make it easier to maintain and make a more playable hole for the average golfer.  
 This is ongoing as and when the weather and time permit. ....action: **Ben Archer**

**Any other business:**

- None

**Date of next meeting:**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 13.00pm in the Club House.**