

Greens Report 2011/2

Staff - Stephen Grant and David Stephen continue to provide excellent service and innovation. Sandy exerts his thrown influence and Peter the Apprentice has attended Elmwood College in Cupar. Bert Grant and Gordon should also be thanked for their contribution.

Equipment - A perennial headache for staff has been the serviceability of equipment - we tended to retain machinery far beyond its useful life. Following the example of numerous other clubs, two companies Alpha Plus and Fairways were asked to tender for a 5 year, fixed price supply and maintenance contract - Fairways were successful. We now have a completely new range of green keeping machinery (apart from an old tractor which was retained to power a water pump). Neil Hardie, who, thro his company Blue Manta, contributes significantly to the club, has indicated that he will provide a "Greens Iron" from next April.

Water - A quote to supply water to 19 greens is being considered. Scotland is forecast to experience much drier summers as a result of climate change and although we have agreement with SEPA to withdraw water from beneath the Don, we simply do not have sufficient funds to commit to this project.

Course - There are drainage problems in the 2nd and a number of greens in the "new" nine. Whether linked to this problem or not there does appear to be fungus/disease activity taking place which would best be investigated by an Agronomist.

The new 16th will be fully opened this season at 383 yards (medal) 348 (box/ladies). A proposal to construct a new Ladies tee right of the Kopje was rejected by a 20 to 12 vote. I was disappointed to learn of scurrilous comments about the cost of the 16th green - suffice to state that its TOTAL cost was LESS than the Contractor charged to dig the wee pond at the 13th. Bunkers guarding the existing 16th have been infilled and mounded and replace with more appropriate hazards beyond the bell and to the left of the fairway. The SGU also recommended building a bund/berm/banking running in a curve beyond the existing green but this has not been undertaken. Mentioning "Hazards" provides the opportunity to restate that there is NO definition covering the design of a "proper" bunker be it greenside or fairway; their purpose defines their degree of severity be it for aesthetics, protection, routing or penalizing wayward shots.

The medal tee at the 17th has bee relaid and extended to incorporate the Ladies/Box tees. Its area replicates those replaced but it provides much more teeing locations and an interesting perspective of the green. We had hoped to reprofile the 17th green this winter utilising turf from the old 16th. Weather precluded this work; the turf however MUST be safeguarded for future transfer.

To alleviate the conflict at the 15/16th, the 15th fairway has been cut further to the right. The existing right hand bunker will be repositioned to the left. White markers currently indicate this proposal. Coupled with the removal of the hill top thin bushes, golfers should be induced to route down the right of the 15th. Warning notices may be erected at the 15th tees to make players aware of the situation.

The area short of the 13th tees has been landscaped. Sure the hole could have been extended by 50 yds or so but a substantial hazard would then exist from misplaced drives intended for the 4th.

That's it! Bye! No more worries about the "B" who digs out 3 divots practicing at most holes - time to regain a decent handicap! Yours aye Ron Wallace