



1. Greens Forum Minutes

Meeting No:	Greens Forum No 1	Date:	19 August 2015
		Time:	19:00 to 20:30
		Name:	John Roberts
		Location:	Bramhall Golf Club, Bramhall
Attendees:			
Mr Captain - Mr A.M Ince			
Mr Vice Captain – Mr S. Clegg			
Mr Secretary – Mr D. O’Brien			
Lady Captain – Mrs J. Thomas			
Lady Vice Captain – Mrs M. Lee			
Greens Committee Chairman – Mr R. Smith			
Course Manager– Mr L. Adshead			
Greens Committee – Mr D. Joyce, Mr D. Staff, Mr G. Bradley, Mr T. McGrail and Mr J. Roberts			
Apologies - Mrs Carol Coulson			
+ Members			

Agenda Items

- ✓ The Greens Team
- ✓ Greens Renovations & Enhancement Programme
- ✓ Other Works We Do, & Why
- ✓ Projects for the Winter
- ✓ Q & A Session
- ✓ AOB

Minutes of Meeting

Item No	Notes
1	The forum was opened by Mr Captain, giving reasons for the meeting, and expressing his disappointment at the low turnout by members
2	The Greens Chairman (RS) thanked everybody for attending, and offered a PowerPoint Presentation using the points on the agenda
3	The Head Greens Keeper (LA) informed the members on the first point and confirmed that the greens renovation has been completed in three day, along with the reasoning for doing the renovation earlier this year than previous years, this was going to be a trial for future years, and dependant on the success the timing would be revisited



4	LA advised the members that he is trying to change the grass from meadow to bent grass, a better quality more disease resistant grass. So far this has not been successful. Moving the renovation to Aug will give a better chance of success. In addition the club has on short term loan a demonstration model of a new grass seeding machine that should also help. This machine has previously been tried on the chipping green with some success. If it improves the main greens the club will look to by the machine.
5	LA was asked if he used a typical working week plan, which he does produce for his team of five full time staff and one part time staff member
6	RS explained the project plan this winter. Specifically prioritising renovating high wear / GUR areas over more drainage improvements. Key areas to address are right of the 1 st green, 2 nd between the 3 rd tee, 6 th in front of the left hand bunker, 8 th in front of the green & between 17 th green and 11 th tee. LA requested opinions on the approach to the 8 th green Additional projects for future years were listed in the presentation material. If possible some of these will be brought forward to this winter
7	Play in Winter was addressed with the intention of using mats on fairways (or move to the rough) to protect the fairways. With the extra number of people playing last winter there were many more divots that have taken a long time to recover. The majority present were in favour of using mats / move to the rough in targeted areas.
8	The floor was the opened up for questions from the members, Richard Hale, John Sullivan, Bob Eastwood, Bill McWalter, Don Ballard, Darren Staff, Chris Church, Ashley Elliot, Richard Jones, Bruce Fixter, Peter Oldham, Kath Ince, Ian Hazelwood, David Skilton, Brian Kelly and Mr Captain all tabled questions
9	During winter direct players to walk done one side and after a month switch to the other side to spread the wear and give chance for recovery. Also extend the paths
10	Use of Buggies in poor weather conditions was questioned from a wear and health & safety aspect. It is difficult to ban buggies but in poor conditions we do recommend they are not used from a H&S position. With trolleys we do encourage members to carry if possible and if conditions very bad restrict use to the 20 to 30 players with medical conditions registered with the office
11	Hold competitions with restricted clubs to encourage members to carry; however, the winter league is a board competition so this will not apply
12	For Captain's weekend the course was not at its best and little of the GUR was marked. In previous years the GUR has been marked by volunteers, this didn't happen this year.
13	GUR not being marked, LA to encourage the green staff to action, one particular spot was the 9 th fairway, half way down
14	The point of do we have enough staff and equipment was asked, focus on GUR and let sub-contractors get on with major projects.
15	In May & June the course was considered to be in terrible condition, and comparisons to the Tytherington were made; however, grass type are different and our greens are heavily played through the winter when Tytherington use temporary greens
16	A consistent approach to all fairways & greens was requested



17	New drainage lines have not been turfed over or new seed sown. The soil will settle so is topped up several times in the first year to try and maintain levels. They are not normally turfed over as this can cap the drain reducing effectiveness. Typically we let the grass grow over from the side but will turf after 12 months if needed.
18	The question was asked if LA was an associate of “The Gingerbread Men” ! This term refers to Green Keepers who believe in natural & traditional approaches rather than always using chemicals. Yes
19	Air injection on greens was discussed. This is less intrusive to the putting surface than aerating by micro tineing, and less likely to disrupt new bent grasses. The Club had a demo last autumn of a new machine, an Air 2000 and intends to hire one for a day this autumn to further test on the greens and other areas suffering from compaction. If successful we will look to buy one next year, cost circa £ 25k + VAT
20	BM suggest a focus in defining tees, fairways, cross cutting of greens specifically the 13, 16 & 17 hole
21	LA was asked if he had a wish list, both in equipment and sub-contracting. The reply was an Air 2000 machine, a Slitter Seeder machine and finishing drainage projects
22	Year after year make dressing and seeding a priority, hole by hole, specifically the left of the 14 th hole and the right hand bunker on the 6 th hole
23	Not only should the course be consistent, the bunkers should also be consistent, why was the bunker raking machine not used. LA explained that the machine damages the grass on entry and exit to any bunkers that are steep and is designed for large flat bunkers. As far as we are aware none of the local clubs that bought a bunker raking machine still use it. Our bunkers are raked by hand, using the part time member of the greens staff, LA to look into uplifting the hours assigned for bunker raking as 4 hours a day may not be enough
24	7 Greens staff were on duty for the Kirkby Scratch because the weather was so bad on the Friday before
25	Red lines in front of greens has been seen at another club to keep trolleys away, we use white. Red is more prominent and may be more effective, however it could be confused with lateral hazard markings. For further evaluation.
26	Request for more communication via electronic mails and the club website. It takes time to prepare good communication (from volunteers) and it seems much of it is not read. We will aim to do more. We will also look to use the blackboards to tell members what work is being done on the course.
27	Fairways are cut to 15mm, semi is 25mm and rough is 50m. The rough is considered too long, with members losing balls and slowing the game down, areas of concern were 9, 16 & 17. The rough is intended to be difficult to hit from however we don't want lost balls slowing play down. Our difficulty is keeping all the rough the same height with our ridge and furrows. For further evaluation
28	The surrounds to the greens are too long and patchy. Playing from the surrounds should be a chip shot rather than a put. Repair work is needed to get the grass more consistent and we will look at other way to cut these areas. For further evaluation.
29	Winter golf was raised in particular the intended use of mats. Was the excessive number of divots last winter because the fairways were left too short. No the fairways had been allowed to grow at the end of the season, we believe the divots were due to the extra number of players through the winter.



30	Should use of mats / move to the rough be restricted to friendly play in the week. No the heaviest use is on Sat, Thu & Sun, this is when the most damage is done
31	Consideration should be given to 9 hole members not using the front 9 continually. Due to the stoke index of the course, the front nine needs to be played for competitions purposes. There is also an issue with some members who use 1 st to the 4 th on a loop, this is causing excessive usage of the first 4 holes
32	The practice nets were discussed, they are now full of holes and the appearance is poor. LA committed to change the nets ASAP
33	Shale path that have not been edged look untidy. Any new ones will be edged and over time the existing ones will be edged with concrete strips, decking boards, sleepers or similar methods.
34	The set-up of the course at times is lacking detail, in particular tee set-ups are positioned incorrectly i.e. direction, flag positions and colours are incorrect and holes are being cut and crowned
36	At 20:30hrs the meeting was brought to a close by Mr Captain, with thanks to all members who took the time to attend, and a big thank you to LA & RS for their preparation and presentation of the meeting, some ideas and positives could be taken from the forum
37	RS informed members that feedback forms were available and could be complete if the members had any other points to add to the meeting
38	Meeting closed
39	Post meeting note, the feedback form comments have been attached below

Next Meeting Date: To Be Advised



Feedback from the Greens Forum 19th August

What do you feel we do well and should continue doing -

- What you are already doing
- Using the right colour flags for the pin positions
- Making the aprons clear
- Looking after the greens
- Supporting the team / greens
- Inform on progress by Forums and the web
- Ensure drainage programme continues to get earlier grass growth

What do you feel we should stop doing -

- Members should stop knocking the staff - they know what they are doing
- Ladies would say - mowing during their Thursday comps
- Moaning
- Diverting from plans for occasional complaints

What would you suggest we implement for course improvements -

- Cut the aprons shorter
- Make the semi more obvious
- Surround to greens - reduce height of the grass for more consistency & repair the bare areas by re-turfing
- Semi rough too long and not wide enough
- Get the sand in bunkers more consistent
- Mend the GUR
- Cut back and crown the trees by the 13th tee or it will get soggy in winter
- Cut the fringes shorter
- Define Semi
- Cut rough as it used to be, i.e. shorter
- Buy an Aerator
- When preparing temp greens don't cut them too close. They are rarely used and take too long to recover (NB early season having to chip of them to the main green)
- Make the STRI report available on the Club website
- Develop plans for fairway sward density increase , tree replacement & ponds

Do you feel the this forum is a benefit and should it be a regular occurrence -

- Definitely of benefit, repeat but not too regularly
- Once or twice a year max
- Yes. Monthly in the bar on Saturday evening with Les telling members his work programme for the following month, plus Q&A
- Yes