

## GREENS LIAISON REPORT – October/November 2023

Dear Members

Club Captain has had an in depth conversation with the new Head Greenkeeper. A wide range of topics were addressed as follows:

1. **9th Tee shelter** – requires roof repair. HGK advised they have materials for roof and required labour – there will be no requirement for TLGC Committee/Members to pay/do anything.
2. **Winter teeboxes (matted)** the process of weeding and tidying has begun; a couple require matting to be removed and re-levelled.
3. **Winter tees 9th & 13th** – these currently operate in the winter by being “swapped over” the purpose being to prevent players from reducing foot traffic across the existing tee boxes. They will remain “swapped” as they have been for previous winters until a new plan has been discussed in the Greenkeeping team. The concern is that people will ignore ropes and create their own pathway across both tees (there is no one on site at all times to police this to prevent this from happening). The rope to the RHS of the second is a good example as Greenkeepers have seen people with trollies lift the rope up so they can walk quickly to the green which will wear an area out quicker in the winter when grass recovery isn’t possible.
4. HGK is considering installing a temporary winter tee box (with mat & sleepers) on the **4th Hole**.
5. **Pins/Cups** – it has been noted that cups are loose and pins are leaning over. The HGK is compiling a priority list for purchase and these will be included.
6. **Pre Cut Holes on Greens** – these are located on some greens where holes are pre-cut for future use and a temporary cover inserted which tends to sit below the surface of the green. Currently there is a “spare hole” on the green along with the main flag. The purpose of this is to spread wear on the green throughout the week given the increased footfall evidenced since the course is improving. Compaction is a massive issue on a golf course, especially smaller areas around the pin and teeing areas. In an ideal world the Greenkeeping team would be able to aerate once a month with Micro Tines to get sufficient Oxygen to the grass roots. However, at this current moment in time they cannot, because there are little to no roots on the greens and any heavy machine that would be spiking, would rip up the playing surfaces. In order to improve the root growth, they have changed their fertiliser provider to a company the HGK used in his previous HGK role at Ely City Golf Course. This will mean application of fertiliser twice a month during growing season and turf hardeners during the winter months. Not only will there be more applications, but there will also be a variety of products going down rather than the same product each month. This was evident in a

recent soil sample they have had done. So, please bare with it, its not a forever thing but at the moment its essential.

7. **Bunkers** – works will be commencing; first one to be addressed is 11th hole which tends to hold water. This will be followed by the fairway bunker on the 4th hole – due to its location near the dyke, drainage can be directed into the dyke. This will be followed by the 2 greenside bunkers on the 5th (same - diverting drainage into the dyke) then working on the rest. Please note this will be a slow process due to keeping on top of everything else going on on the course.
8. Re the **“Infinity” Bunker on the 12th** – it is going to be removed but no timescale at the moment. HGK also proposes to make **12th tee larger** – extending front of tee out into ground where ball cleaner is – this will provide different angle(s) to the fairway. HGK has confirmed the tee is being made larger to spread the wear and give more options for moving the markers around rather than one thin strip.
9. This will require topsoil and HGK will at the same time get sufficient soil to address the **18th tee (white)** in order to level it, re-turf etc.
10. HGK also proposes to reshape some of the **fairways** to make them more interesting. Reshape of fairways will be done around March/April prior to the season beginning and Greenkeeping team are confident that the grass will return quickly after being stressed out.
11. HGK also proposes to take some **trees** out of the course – numerous dead trees around the course need to be removed, over hanging branch on the 15<sup>th</sup> green is a necessity. Other smaller trees that make maintaining areas of the course more challenging than they need to be will also be removed.

Yours

Ian Fane & Danny Phillips

Greens Liaison – Club Captain & Vice Captain