

Greens Committee Minutes Warkworth Golf Club 4th June 2018 at 4.00pm

Present:- J A Gray Chairman, G V Douglas Treasurer, G Sawley, A Mackay

Apologies D Metcalf

Assistant Greenkeepers

Geoff Taylor and David Dalby are working on the course as assistant greenkeepers for 2.5 days per week. This leaves the greenkeeper short of 2.5r days per week compared with what we had when Ian Bruce worked on the course. Consequently the greenkeeper states that he is unable to have the same amount of work done on the course and members will have to lower their expectations. JAG will find out from the Greenkeeper the course works that cannot be done with the current staffing. Committee needs to decide whether more staffing can be made available.

Course Work

Divot filling still to be carried out. G Sawley will continue to do this at convenient times for him

Plan time with Greenkeeper and Kevan Jamieson to do the work on the top dressing storage area. This needs to be done before the delivery of the next load of top dressing

The Greenkeeper said that the many divots on the course were mostly as a result play of winter and stressed that the committee should consider reverting to teeing up on fairways during the winter period. The AGM will be the time that a proposal to change back to teeing up over the winter period needs to be brought to the members.

Replacing the turf on the 6th winter tee box. JAG and AM have replaced most of the turf on the winter tee to provide a good sized teeing area. The soil areas that have not been re-turfed will be allowed to grow over. It is now up to the green keeper to look after the tee box, allow it to grow in and hopefully it will be able to be used over the coming winter. If not the teeing area will be put on the 6th summer tee box the same as last year

Continue to cut the rough / former bracken area in front of the 3rd/ 12th teeboxes

Continue to cut the rough / bracken area heading north over killie behind the gorse bushes

Some of the gorse bushes need to be trimmed / managed. JAG will do this

Some of the blackthorn plantings have been eaten by rabbits/deer. JAG and AM will collect existing growing bushes from around the course and replant them behind the 9th/18th green.

Fir trees donated by Bruce Hardy have been planted behind the 3rd winter tee box and the 9th/18th Green

Winter tee boxes management so they are ready for next year. Greenkeeper would approach this later in the year

5/6 Large timbers lying in the grass east of the practice area. Greenkeeper suggested using two of these as replacement seats from those stolen from the hut. Committee feels that this would not be appropriate and that we should look for a couple of lengths of scaffolding plank or similar in case

thieves steal the wood as per the last time. A Mackay has tightened some of the nuts on the bridge to comply with insurance issues.

The bridge needs a couple of coats of preservative. A Mackay will purchase 3 x 5 litre containers of preservative.

A M and JAG strimmed the long grass under the bridge until the lines ran out. There is a little more to do.

GS will source some weedkiller which will be sprayed around the footings of the bridge to prevent grass growth around the concrete bases.

The field drain area east of the bridge needs clearing out to allow the water to run away successfully from Northumberland Estates' pipe.

The sprayer has been checked and a certificate for use issued. Daisy spraying is currently being done.

Fertiliser to be put on some worn areas of the fairways. Greenkeeper already has eight bags of fertiliser for the tee boxes and will order another 10 bags (£13 per bag + vat).

JAG spoke to the greenkeeper following complaints from the match play team. The greens had been cut on the day and the tee boxes are always cut on a Monday and a Thursday. They have never been cut especially for match play days.

It was agreed that XXXXX be contacted for a price to furrow the fairways so that fairway sprinklers could be installed on the course

Greens

Greens in good order

Now that the grass is starting to grow. Greenkeeper said that he would be unable to prepare the 'Aprons' until the back end of this year to be ready for next season.

Verti draining work on the greens and aprons will be done at the end of September 2018 followed by top dressing and then another application of top dressing at the end of October/beginning of November. This would mean at least loads of top dressing.

GS said that he would like to see a raised 'fringe'/ collar around the greens designating where the fairway ends and the green starts. The greenkeeper would have to address this in the green cutting process

Bunkers

Continue to manage bunkers. Another load of sand will be needed later in the year.

Assistant green keeper Geoff Taylor will take the metal spikes from the shed and form them into bunker rake holders

Machinery

There is a need for a Greens Multicorer. Greenkeeper to check on local distributors and other online suppliers.

The fairway cutting machine is currently under repair and the bill is likely to be around £850.

In this very dry weather the greenkeeper has been asked to raise the cut on the fairway cutter to 18mm

Course Signage Tee Markers

The new tee signs will be delivered in August. Preparation work will need to be planned, resourced and carried out on the tee boxes. GS is anticipating that the markers should be in place for the start of next season

Health and Safety

Shed is in a dire state of repair. Quotes needed for replacement of steel panels. GVD to do this

AOB

Following much conversation amongst members the Greens committee would recommend that the committee considers the following recommendation.

A ball hit and found to be lying on the North / South road to and from the caravan site can be given relief and dropped on the grassed area of the course (nearest point of relief) to the west.

If the ball is lying east of the road – on the edge of the verge or down the bank in the heavy rough then this area is marked as out of bounds.

Also

In a conversation with NUGC officer Mr Danny Finlay he stated that the club was incorrect in the way it interpreted the out of bounds rule on the 9th/18th hole.

He said the rule states that once a ball crosses an out of bounds line the ball is '**out of bounds**' and cannot return 'in bounds' i.e currently our rule is that if a ball crosses the out of bounds on the 9th/18th hole and then lands on the 1st/10th tee box the ball is still in play. He states that this is incorrect

Course Score Cards – Taking a long time but still In hand. JAG & DC

Car Park

Ongoing issue.

Greenkeeper has been spreading some more of the waste tarmac to fill in the potholes

Possibility of creating a hard stand, using the road planings by the wooden shed to house electric trolleys? It was decided that this was not feasible, and would cost a fair amount for little benefit

Next Meeting

Arranged for Monday 2nd July 2018 at 4.00pm

John A Gray