



## **Hazlemere Golf Club - Course update May 2010**

### **Background**

This is the third course update and in addition to outlining course projects we have incorporated some of the questions asked by members during the course of the past month. Copies of this update will be emailed, posted on the board in the player's corridor, posted in the pro shop, posted on the web and displayed in the club house.

### **Pin Position Guides**

The pilot scheme was introduced on May 1<sup>st</sup> and generally well received. Early feedback indicated we might be more suited to a three grid system rather than the current 4 grid system currently being trialled. Unfortunately the scheme has been temporarily suspended until the virus on some of the greens has been cleared. The situation will be reviewed weekly and hopefully, given the forecast of warmer weather, should be reinstated in the next 2-4 weeks.

### **150 Yard Markers**

The 150 yards markers are now in position on all fairways, except par 3s, and have all been re-measured (and re-sited as appropriate) using GPS equipment. Reminder, the 150 yard markers are to the **middle of the green as the crow flies**.

### **Bell on the 1<sup>st</sup>**

This is now fully operational.

### **Water Fountain by 12<sup>th</sup> Green**

This is now fully operational.

### **Winter Mats**

New winter mats have now been approved for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tees.

### **Course Improvement Plan**

Jane Doyle (Chairperson of the Greens Committee) has set dates for each of the groups to carry out the course audit as detailed below.

Practise Area	Completed
First tranche of 6 holes	May 20 <sup>th</sup>
Second tranche of 6 holes	May 25 <sup>th</sup>
Final tranche of 6 holes	May 27 <sup>th</sup>

The groups will be made up from a member of the greens staff, Jane and members of the golf club representing a broad cross section of club membership. Having collated all the information, and agreed content with the individual groups,

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this will be reviewed by the Greens Committee, prioritised, taking into account practical, financial and seasonal factors and turned into a working document as used so successfully by the House Committee.

## **Course Activity**

### **Greens, Tees and Putting Green - general**

During April and May over 40 tonnes (equivalent to the full summer allocation) of top dressing has been applied along with appropriate feeding regimes. Results have been slow as soil temperatures remain on mid single figures but there have been visible improvements over the last 10 days. Weather forecast for the coming weeks looks more favourable and we should expect continued improvement. Patching and reseeding options will also be reviewed as appropriate.

One of the downsides of the intensive top dressing program is the blunting of mower blades which results in a bruising of the grass rather than a clean cut which in turn leads to slower putting surfaces. After the final dressing today the blades will be reground ready for the June competitions.

### **Clearing of the bank to the left of 15<sup>th</sup> tee**

The bank has now been cleared and sprayed with an attractive shade of weed killer. The plan is to keep this clear and the plant with a mixture of gorse and heather towards the end September/October.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Tee**

Work started May 14<sup>th</sup> and should be finished by the end of the month. The plan includes removing the old sleepers and surrounding the winter mat with a weed free membrane topped with slate.

### **Gorse above 2<sup>nd</sup> Green**

Work should be completed by the end of June. Plan includes clearing nettles and self planting ash trees and a light trimming of the gorse.

## **Questions**

### **We do not always see greens staff on the course – what hours do they work?**

Over the last few years working hours have been reduced in line with the economic conditions. Greens staff in the **summer months work** from 06.00-15.00 Monday to Thursday (with a break 11.00-11.30), Friday 06.00-11.30 (in lieu of Sat and Sun) and 06.00-09.00 Saturday and Sunday (weekend work is to lightly rake bunkers, move pin positions and cut greens). There is a weekly work schedule covering 230 hours but only 200 man hours currently available.

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## **Given the workload do Greens have to be cut every day?**

We are now into the peak growing season, particularly with the intensive feeding program which has been in place. Failure to cut the greens daily would have a marked impact on putting speeds - as reported in April when frost prevented cutting over one weekend.

## **What were the black plastic buckets in some of the bunkers?**

This was a suggestion from the Greens Committee as a trial to encourage members to help remove stones from the bunkers. The trial was reviewed in the May meeting and the buckets have since been removed. The Greens Committee will form a working party to work on some of the worst bunkers, testing out some new equipment, during the first week of June.

## **What is the latest position on the Bunker project?**

Latest fundraising figures will show we have collected over £7,000.

As presented at the last Bunker update it is intended to start with the 5<sup>th</sup> green. Agripower (the specialist outside contractor) has been provisionally booked for the first week in September. Prior to then detailed presentations to members will have taken place.

## **What can the members do to help?**

Obviously the course audit will identify areas where member's working parties will play a vital role but for all members and visitors there are basic housekeeping tasks which should be part of their daily golfing routine.

**Raking Bunkers after use.** All bunkers are surface raked daily to remove any footprints and deep raked once a week (nine on Tuesdays and nine on Wednesdays). It is up to each and every golfer to leave the bunker as they would wish to find it and to remind those who may have forgotten.

**Repairing Pitch Marks.** We all know the consequences associated with pitch marks left not repaired, damage taking weeks to recover can easily be avoided by golfers repairing pitch marks immediately on reaching the green. Help by repairing others which may have been unintentionally overlooked.

## **Golf Trolleys and Buggies.**

Would all golfers please refrain from taking their trolleys and buggies between greens and greenside bunkers.

## **Greens Committee**

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Hazlemere Golf Club Ltd**

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