



COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY DOCUMENT

SECTION A INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE AND PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

1. Introduction

This has been produced by Hagley Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper and Golf Operations Manager. Following consultation with Hagley Golf Club's Greens Committee it has been formally adopted by the Executive Committee of the Club.

This document is split into the following sections.

SECTION A INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE AND PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

SECTION B COURSE ADMINISTRATION POLICY

SECTION C GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE POLICY

SECTION D WINTER GOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN

BIANNUAL COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM & PLANNED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS 2022 & 2023

2. Purpose

2.1 To specify the responsibilities and procedures for the management of the golf course at Hagley Golf Club.

2.2 To outline the key elements to allow the course to be maintained and developed to agreed standards.

2.3 The Course Management Policy having been agreed by the Executive Management Committee and Greenstaff members should be strictly followed and supported by Golf Club staff and members alike.

2.4 The Course Management Policy will be reviewed annually. If any modification is required, it must only be done after consultation with the Head Greenkeeper, Golf Operations Manager and Greens Committee. Any significant changes will be applied only after approval from the Executive Management Committee.

3. Principal Objectives

3.1 To produce a golf course that retains and attracts, Hagley GC members due to high standards maintained throughout the year. The aim is to generate sufficient membership revenue to ensure the financial viability of a continuous programme of course improvements. These improvements will be the result of the application of specific plans within the programme as described below.

3.2 To continue to maintain the golf course in the playing season to the high standard set in previous years, ensuring the course is playable as often as possible by preserving key playing areas i.e., tees, greens and aprons for the next playing season.

- The 'Playing Season' is approximately 1st May to 31st October

- The 'Winter Golf Program' is approximately to 1st November to 28th February

- The 'Pre-season Program' is approximately to 1st March to 30th April

3.3 To document any plans of course management.

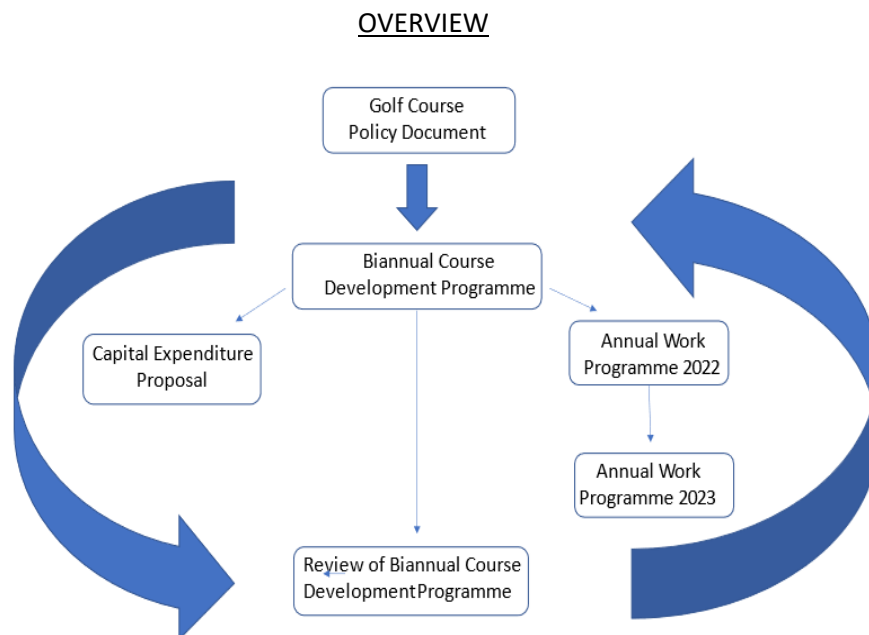
3.4 To reduce pesticide, water and fertiliser use by implementing appropriate cultural and mechanical operations.

3.5 To manage the course in accordance with R&A Golf Course Committee's definition of Sustainable Golf Course Management.

Agreed By: _____ (For Greenstaff)

_____ (For Executive Committee)

Date: _____



SECTION B COURSE ADMINISTRATION POLICY

The Greens Committee will comprise:

- Head Greenkeeper
- Golf Operations Manager
- Nominated members of the Hagley Golf Club Committee
- Hagley Golf Club's PGA professionals

The Greens Committee will meet every 4 to 6 weeks. Minutes and actions from these meetings will be recorded and shared for reference.

1. The purpose of the Greens Committee:

1.1. To review the Course Management Policy on an annual basis and make recommendations to the Executive Management Committee for change or modification as deemed necessary.

1.2. To co-operate with the Head Greenkeeper and Golf Operations Manager and recommend to the Executive Management Committee a 2-year Course Development Plan. This will inform the Annual Work Programme. All Course Development projects recommended will be approved only when it is agreed they are in the long-term interests of Lyttelton Enterprises, Hagley Golf Club, and its members.

2. Roles & Responsibilities

2.1. Role of Golf Operations Manager

- To liaise, on behalf of the Executive Management Committee, with the Head Greenkeeper on all matters relating to the maintenance of the golf course.
- To report to the Executive Management Committee at regular meetings on matters affecting the course.
- To attend meetings with Greens Committee at specified intervals.
- To meet regularly with the Head Greenkeeper, generally at least once per fortnight, as many meetings to be held on the golf course as possible, so that current conditions can be viewed and discussed.
- To advise Hagley Golf Club's Committee, in particular Competitions Organiser, of the existence of such playing or other conditions on the course which require protection by Local Rule or otherwise.
- To coordinate the implementation of the Work and Course Development Programme alongside the Head Greenkeeper.
- To ensure that the policies on course closure and use of winter greens are consistently applied.

- To regularly consult with the Head Greenkeeper on the staffing level and training needs required to maintain standards and complete Work and Course Development Programmes

2.2. Role of Head Greenkeeper

- To maintain the course in accordance with Golf Course Management Policy.
- To manage the greenkeeping staff and discharge the duties as defined in the Head Greenkeeper job description.
- To determine the daily work programme and allocate tasks to the Greenstaff accordingly.
 - To ensure that the greenkeeping operation in all respects is carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy of the Club.
- To keep abreast of developments in greenkeeping machinery and work alongside the Golf Operations Manager in the formulation of the capital equipment rolling programme.
- To liaise with the Golf Operations Manager, as necessary, on all matters affecting the course.
- To liaise with the GC Secretary on administrative and disciplinary matters. In accordance with the GC's disciplinary procedure.
- To maintain records as necessary.

3. Health and Safety

3.1. The Club's arrangements to comply with Government legislation are detailed in our "Health, Safety and Environment Manual".

3.2. The contents of the Manual are binding upon the Executive Management Committee and the Greenstaff.

3.3. The policy is reviewed annually by audit.

3.4. The Greenstaff are provided with all necessary protective equipment. It is staff member's responsibility to wear the equipment provided for those tasks specified.

3.5. Greenstaff must only undertake work for which training has been provided. They must not undertake any work they consider to be unsafe.

3.6. Relevant greensstaff have undertaken First Aid training and are aware of the Code Red on course process, including the location and safe but fast delivery of defibrillator onto the golf course.

4. Capital Equipment Provision

4.1. To provide for replacement of capital equipment and equipment upgrading, Lyttelton Enterprises will operate a 'rolling' programme. The first round in the programme will begin in 2022/23. This will be based on costed recommendations from the Head Greenkeeper and Golf Operations Manager. These recommendations will be shared with the wider Greens Committee only after Lyttelton Enterprises finance team have approved them as sound investments.

4.2. Capital will be allocated annually for the express purpose of funding the purchase of major items of greens equipment either as replacements or additional items. This amount will be determined largely by membership revenue and expenditure in other areas of the Golf Club.

5. Control of Golf Course Capital Expenditure

5.1. The greens expenditure budget shall be set by the Directors of Lyttelton Enterprises on, or around, the start of the financial year. Taking account of the previous year's spend and any anticipated changes to the spend pattern.

5.2. Expenditure shall be monitored monthly by means of the 'expenditure to budget' control exercised by Lyttelton Enterprises finance team. Variance to budget will be investigated.

5.3. The Head Greenkeeper has the authority to purchase consumable items such as sand, seeds and fertilisers and sanction machinery repairs. He is, however, accountable for operating within budget constraints. In this regard, close liaison with the Golf Operations Manager is necessary.

6. Record Keeping

6.1. The Head Greenkeeper should maintain a record of:

- All fertilisers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides applied to the course. The record should contain details of date of application, quantity applied, area treated and personnel carrying out the application. Such records must satisfy all requirements of the relevant Pesticide Legislation.
- Date of placing of order, and receipt of, major purchases including sand, fertilisers and pesticides.
- Items of machinery sent for overhaul and repair and details of the work carried out. A detailed service and repair record should be maintained for each major item of machinery.
- Staff training carried out internally and externally.
- Any accident or incident affecting the health, safety or well-being of the staff.
- All products such as pesticides bearing a COSHH hazard warning sign. Details of quantities stored should be available at the Chemsafe.
- Personal Protection Equipment issued to staff and details of periodic inspection.

7. Training

7.1. Training of staff should be considered as 'on-going' and the Club will assist in any reasonable way in their participation in greenkeeping related courses.

7.2. Qualified staff should be encouraged to attend lectures, demonstrations, and seminars on greenkeeping matters considered to be of potential benefit to the Club and will be allowed time off work, normally with pay, to do so.

7.3. It shall be a condition of employment that apprentices attend 'college' and successfully pass relevant examinations or assessments.

8. Communication with Members.

8.1 Members should be warned in advance of any course maintenance operation that is likely to disrupt play e.g. Verti-draining or hollow coring. This is the responsibility of the Golf Operations Manager in conjunction with the Head Greenkeeper and Club Secretary.

8.2 The contents of the annual Work Programme should be communicated to Golf Club members once it is approved by the Executive Management Committee. The membership should be made aware of the Course Management Policy Document and progress on its implementation. The Course Management Policy Document will be published on the Golf Club website. Updates on implementation will be provided in regular newsletter notifications via email to Golf Club members.

8.3 GC members will be made aware of the Golf Club's arrangements to discharge its obligations to Health and Safety legislation and matters that affect them personally.

9. Bi-annual Course Development Program and annual Work Program

9.1 A 2-year program for Course Development will be drawn up by the Head Greenkeeper and Golf Operations Manager in consultation with the Greens Committee. This will be presented to the Executive Management Committee for approval.

9.2 Once approved the headline objectives of the Course Development program should be shared with GC members.

9.3 Each year specific projects in the Course Development program will be selected and carried out.

9.4 The selected projects and Course Maintenance Policy (detailed in Section C) will together form the annual Work Program.

10. Competition Days

10.1 The Head Greenkeeper will be provided with a fixture list annually on its publication by the Secretary. It is the responsibility of the Golf Operations Manager and Head Greenkeeper to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for all competitions held at the Club.

10.2 For nominated competitions the greens will be cut on the day of the competition. Otherwise, the greens will be cut during the preceding day and switched on the morning of the competition.

10.3 The presence of all flagsticks should be checked.

10.4 In compliance with the Standard Scratch Score and Handicapping requirements no tee marker should be more than 10 yards in front or behind the PERMANENT DISTANCE MARKER and the total change to the measured playing length of the golf course must not exceed 100 yards.

11. Use of Pesticides

11.1 Pests should be controlled as far as possible by cultural and mechanical means.

11.2 When application of a pesticide is necessary, i.e. incidence is beyond the stated tolerance threshold, spraying must be strictly controlled in compliance with the Pesticide Regulations using approved substances.

11.3 Spraying must only be done by persons deemed 'competent' under the provisions of the regulations using approved personal protection equipment.

11.4 Spraying should not be carried out in windy conditions and contamination of watercourses must be strictly avoided in accordance with a 'no spray zone' policy i.e. spraying should not be carried out within 2 metres of a watercourse.

12. Closure of the Course

12.1 The only reason for course closure should be adverse weather conditions. (Individual holes or sections of holes may occasionally close for essential course maintenance.)

12.2 The Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Golf Operations Manager have authority to close the course. First assistant and Assistants will assess and only be responsible for advising the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and/or Golf Operations Manager. If course closure has been advised it must be authorised and confirmed by the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and/or Golf Operations Manager.

12.3 In the absence of an authorised member of staff the advice as to whether to close or re-open the course will be shared with the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper or Golf Operations Manager by member of Range & Academy staff. Ideally with advice from a nominated Committee Member also. As in 12.2 If course closure has been advised it must be authorised and confirmed by the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and/or Golf Operations Manager.

12.4 In the event of closure, V1 notifications should be sent where possible, indicating the time of the next course inspection.

12.5 In the event the front 9 is closed and the back 9 open a re-inspection time for the front 9 will be posted.

12.6 A log should be kept by the Golf Operations Manager noting course closure dates and the reason.

12.7 The primary reason for course closure will likely be temporary water on general playing areas and greens, or fog.

The course will be assessed, and/or reinspected in line with the R&A's rule 6E (Suspensions and Resumptions) and 16.1 (Abnormal Course Condition). These are described in more detail below. A summary of their application for course assessments here at Hagley GC is:

When the course is assessed and/or reinspected after heavy rain; if there is water that cannot be removed from greens these will be considered unplayable and temporary greens used instead. If there are accumulations of water in General Areas that fall within the definition of Temporary Water in Rule 16.1 on most of the 1st, 2nd, and 9th fairways the front 9 holes will be assessed as unplayable. As players will not be able play within the rule 16b as points of full relief within the General Area are assessed as being unavailable at that time. The fairways of 10th, 18th and 16th holes will be similarly assessed to determine the back 9's status.

Detail of R&A rules for reference:

6E Suspensions and Resumptions

- Water - If all the area around a hole is covered in temporary water and it cannot be removed, in stroke play the course should be considered unplayable and the Committee should suspend play under [Rule 5.7](#).

Rule 16.1 Abnormal Course Condition

- Temporary Water - Any temporary accumulation of water on the surface of the ground (such as puddles from rain or irrigation or an overflow from a body of water) that:

Can be seen before or after the player takes a stance (without pressing down excessively with his or her feet). It is not enough for the ground to be merely wet, muddy or soft or for the water to be momentarily visible as the player steps on the ground; an accumulation of water must remain present either before or after the stance is taken.

General Area - The area of the course that covers all of the course **except** for the other four defined areas: (1) the teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole he or she is playing, (2) all penalty areas, (3) all bunkers, and (4) the putting green of the hole the player is playing.

16b Relief for Ball in General Area - If a player's ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition on the course, the player may take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see [Rule 14.3](#)):

- There must be complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition.

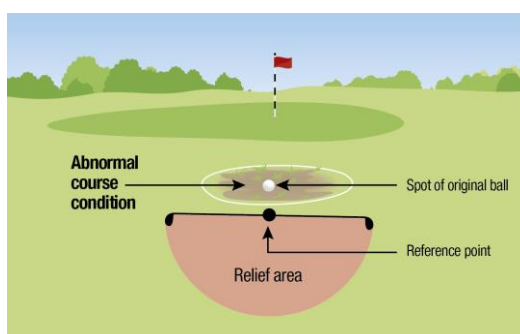


DIAGRAM 16.1b: FREE RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION IN GENERAL AREA

Free relief is allowed when the ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition. The nearest point of complete relief should be identified and a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area. The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and must be in the general area. When taking relief, the player must take complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition.

- Visibility

It is recommended that, if landing areas are no longer visible to players (for example, due to fog or darkness), play should be suspended. Similarly, if players are unable to read the line of play on a putting green due to a lack of visibility, play should be suspended. This will be judged using the marker on oak on left side of 1st hole. However, greenkeepers on other parts of the course where fog may be hazardous as landing areas are no longer visible can advise the Pro staff who will sound the horn to close the course until visibility has improved to allow play to restart safely.

12.8 Lightning Policy

Hagley Golf Club prioritises the safety of golfers during inclement weather. Weather reports and local conditions are monitored during storm warnings. Monitoring will include Initial observation of general conditions and the use of storm tracking device, weather apps and websites. If it is decided that it is unsafe to continue to play golf as a storm approach, the Professional Shop will sound a klaxon to call all golfers off the course and into the clubhouse. If there is a risk of lightning play MUST be discontinued. Hagley Golf club is not responsible for the safety of any golfer on the course, and it is therefore your responsibility to remove yourself from any situation which you deem dangerous. If you see lightning or hear the klaxon the following will apply:

Proceed immediately to the clubhouse this is the safest places on the course.

- Do not continue to play golf and do not seek shelter under trees. Trees do not protect you from lightning.
- During competitions, if there is a lightning risk, play will be suspended and players must leave the course.
- Where play is automatically suspended on the sound of the klaxon, a player may not override the Policy decision to evacuate the course.
- Players should stop play and seek shelter any time they believe lightning threatens them, even if the klaxon has not been sounded.

Although the Club will take every precaution to ensure the safety of players during a thunderstorm, it is a player's own responsibility to discontinue play when in his/her opinion lightning is a threat. It is not always possible to monitor conditions on the entire course and players have a duty of care to themselves. They should therefore familiarise themselves with both the Club policy and the Rules of Golf.

13. Security

13.1 All relevant security measures must be deployed at the end of each working day.

13.2 Keys must not be left in the ignition of any vehicle when unattended.

14. Storage

14.1 All hazardous chemicals must be stored in the Chemsafe, the contents and quantities of which must be listed and displayed.

14.2 Fertilisers should be stored on pallets and kept off the ground.

14.3 Sands, top dressings and path covering materials should be stored in the compound provided, ensuring that the various materials are kept apart. Top dressing should be kept as dry as possible.

15. Resources

15.1 The agreed minimum staffing level to provide a course maintained to the desired standard is six full time staff comprised of the following:

Head Greenkeeper. • Deputy Head Greenkeeper. • First assistant Greenkeeper

Two Greens keeping staff. • One Apprentice

15.2 In addition a person/s will be seasonally employed part-time to carry out any tasks as required.

15.3 Regular review of staffing levels will be conducted.

16. Complaints

16.1 No complaint on any matter relating to the conduct of the staff or condition of the course should be made directly, or by indirectly, to any member of the Greenstaff.

16.2 All complaints and comments should be made to the Golf Club Secretary by email so a record can be created, and replies/actions reviewed properly.

16.3 Where appropriate, such complaints shall be brought before the Management Committee for their consideration.

SECTION C GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE POLICY

The mission statement of course management at Hagley Golf Club: 'To provide the best possible year-round playing surfaces in an environmentally responsible and financially sustainable manner for the long-term benefit of the Club.'

1. Greens

1.1 Maintenance objectives

- The aim of maintenance is to provide firm, smooth and true greens that remain playable throughout the year and are economically and environmentally sustainable.

1.2 Promoting the finer grasses

- The Club is committed to encouraging the finer grasses such as bent and fescue on the greens and the reduction in the proportion of annual meadow grass. This will reduce the vulnerability of the greens to Climate Change, stricter pesticide legislation and tighter water use. It will also provide consistent year-round golfing surfaces.

- To promote these grasses, the following policy for the management of the greens has been agreed

1.3 Fertiliser and irrigation

- The annual nitrogen application will be determined by the results of the annual soil analysis report carried out in January/February.

- Unless otherwise advised by our agronomic advisors, fertilisers in general will be nitrogen based with little or no phosphate.

- Fertilisers used will be predominantly organic in nature, e.g. seaweed based. The last fertiliser application should be made no later than mid-September.

- To optimise water penetration and provide uniform surfaces, wetting agents will be used.

1.4 Aeration and top dressing

- Regular aeration will be carried out when required throughout the year by an appropriate method. An outline aeration programme is documented below but the intensity and frequency of work is subject to weather, ground conditions and growth.

- Verti-draining when required

- Hollow coring when conditions are suitable. The autumn operation should be carried out during strong growing conditions. This normally means no later than mid-September.
- Top dressing will consist of medium coarse 80/20 mix. Regular laboratory analysis will be carried out to monitor its quality.
- The aim is to apply 80+ tonnes of top dressing to all 18 greens during the growing season. Regular light dressings should be applied in summer and heavier applications directly after coring operations. It should never be applied to smother the turf.
- Top dressing should only be applied during growth so the material can be rapidly absorbed into the turf. It should be gently worked into the base of the turf using means to minimise damage to the turf.
- To promote the finer grasses, it is essential to minimise the disturbance pressure on the turf. This means refining the surface gently and never aggressively.
- Mowing will be carried out when required. During strong growth this will be daily.
- Hand mowing will be undertaken as frequently as possible in winter months. It may also be used in the main golf season if the Head Greenkeeper believes it is appropriate.
- When using the triplex mower, the final perimeter cut will be missed out a couple of times a week to minimise wear through scarring.
- A sensible height of cut will be established, at which healthy turf, stress-free turf can be maintained.
- Gentle verti-cutting will be implemented as required. This should never be aggressive. This should be complemented with light grooming and brushing.
- Light top dressing mentioned earlier will provide a smooth and true surface.

1.6 Green speed

- To provide greens of reasonable speed without imposing undue pressure on the turf we will roll, top dress and brush.
- The speed will be controlled by use of a Stimpmeter. The object is to provide greens reading 7-9 feet on the Stimpmeter at the height of the playing season and no slower than 5 feet at other times.

1.7 Hole cutting and changing

- To ensure that holes are not crowned when cut it is mandatory to use either a board or a hole cutter with a flange attachment. The position of holes for competitions is at the discretion of the greenkeeping staff.
- If rain is forecast, it would be prudent to cut holes in high spots. This should be borne in mind by staff preparing the course in the morning of competitions.
- Holes should be changed at least twice a week during the playing season. Forward positioned 'Frost Holes' may be used during winter months to protect the majority of greens surface area.

1.8 The growing environment

- Where vegetation shades greens it is the policy to limit their negative influence by appropriate pruning / removal.

1.9 Overseeding

- To further the aim of increasing the promotion of finer grasses, it is the Club policy to overseed the greens as required with an appropriate seed mix. High quality cultivars will be always used.

2. Tees

2.1 The aim is to provide a firm, level and well-grassed teeing platform on each hole.

2.2 To accomplish this objective, the maintenance programme should involve regular aeration, controlled feeding and top dressing.

2.3 The mowing height is normally in the range 8-10 mm. Tees shall be mown at least twice a week during the playing season.

2.4 Divot marks should be restored weekly using a mix of sand / loam / seed during months when germination makes this process effective.

2.5 All the tee markers should be progressively moved back (or forward) in a planned fashion so that a teeing area once used can be top dressed, seeded and rested. This means tee markers will typically be 1 ½ to 2 ½ club lengths wide and will be moved when holes are moved, at least twice a week.

2.6 Full use should be made of those tees affording an alternative route to the hole to minimise wear and tear of the walk-off areas. This is particularly important in the winter months alongside roping for traffic management.

2.7 Permanent distance markers should be maintained such that they are clearly visible.

3. Fairways

3.1 It is desirable to develop some shape and form to the fairway cutting and so avoid straight lines. Once the desired contouring has been established it is important that the member of staff cutting the fairway preserves the agreed line. The 'agreed line' should be established with the Greens Committee before the first cut of the season.

3.2 The need for fairway weed control should be assessed on an annual basis. Spot or localised treatment is much preferred to an overall application. It is preferable that spraying is carried out at the start of the growing season before weeds flower and seeds form. This should minimise the incidence of weeds the following year.

3.3 In periods of wet weather and vigorous growth it may be necessary to disperse grass cuttings to provide presentable playing and aesthetic conditions.

3.4 Deep aeration will be required on at least an annual basis to improve surface drainage. Scarification and localised sand dressing may also be required. This may be required twice a year in heavily trafficked routes from green to tees.

3.5 Irrigation application may be required in periods of excessive dry weather. Irrigation should only be applied to keep the turf alive.

3.6 Divot marks should be restored when possible, using a mix of sand / loam / seed.

4. Bunkers

4.1 Bunkers should be raked regularly. Any stones or other debris should be removed. Bunker linings should not be visible and/or affect play.

4.2 A constant monitor should be kept on the level of sand in the bunkers and on their 'playability'. The need for topping up a bunker with sand should be brought to the attention of the Head Greenkeeper by those members of staff maintaining bunkers regularly.

4.3 When bunkers are 'topped up' the sand should be consolidated to reduce the likelihood of the ball 'plugging'

4.4 Approved bunker sand with a controlled particle size from a reputable supply source should be used.

4.5 The design of the bunkers should be in accordance with the character of the course.

5. Semi-Rough

5.1 The purpose of semi-rough is to punish the wayward shot and so reward the straight hitter. This should be done mindful of the searching for golf balls and impact on the speed of play. It should be the intent to 'reward' the player playing from the fairway.

5.2 Semi-rough should therefore be maintained at a height where there is a reasonable expectation that the ball will be found but the next shot will be significantly more difficult than from an equivalent position on the fairway.

5.3 For operational reasons semi-rough must be maintained within a 'range'. A satisfactory range has proved to be 1½ - 2 ½".

5.4 It is vitally important that care be exercised when cutting among trees to avoid damage to the tree trunks as damage so inflicted leads to disease and curtailment of the lifespan of any tree so affected.

6. Out-of-play areas

6.1 The natural vegetation type to the course will be always promoted. This should involve appropriate maintenance as instructed by a qualified ecologist.

6.2 It is the policy to minimise unnecessary cosmetic mowing to out-of-play areas, as this will save time and fuel. It will also provide a more natural look.

6.3 Drainage and ditch clearance and maintenance will be carried out regularly to ensure drainage is effective and keep up appearance of these areas.

7. Trees

7.1 To allow full development of growing trees it is necessary to 'thin out' certain trees particularly in plantations.

7.2 Natural regenerating species such as hawthorn require to be rigorously controlled.

7.3 Tree management should be considered annually at the setting of the Winter Programme.

7.4 Consideration should be given regularly to the replacement of old or dying trees in strategic golfing positions so that the replacement tree(s) can be established before the original requires to be removed.

7.5 Care should be exercised when planting in the vicinity of tees or greens to ensure that when the tree or shrub is fully developed it does not create excessive shade or deny the required circulation of air to the tee or green.

8. Irrigation System.

8.1 The prime function of the watering system is to allow survival of the grasses on the greens and surrounds in times of relative drought. It should not be used to provide 'target golf'.

8.2 It is important that the watering system be tested in early spring to ensure that it is in working order for the incoming season.

8.3 To protect the system, it should be drained to the lowest point in autumn before the onset of frost.

8.4 Hand watering should be implemented as necessary to minimise the use of the automatic system.

9 Protected areas

9.1 White lines and ropes shall be used to protect sensitive parts of the course. The Greenkeeper with referral to the Greens Committee will implement protection measures as required.

10 GC Member's responsibilities

10.1 It is the responsibility of all golfers to repair their own pitch marks and replace their divots. Sand/seed will be available at the 1st and 10th tees for divot replacement.

10.2 It is the responsibility of all golfers to check the latest 'Course Status' update on the Club V1 software. This is especially important in the winter months. If GC members require confirmation, they can call the Pro Shop.

10.3 In winter months golfers must follow the Traffic Management Policy. This describes specific instructions for use of paths, following ropes and areas that may be out of play.

11. Additional Duties

11.1 Collections of grass at the shoe and trolley cleaning point should be removed regularly. The air compressors beside practice putting green and 18th Green should be cleaned

11.2 The course should be 'toured' on a weekly basis (or more frequently if required) to collect discarded cans and bottles and other debris.

11.3 Bins at tee boxes should be regularly emptied particularly before and after weekend play. Recycling bins will be placed at 9th and 18th greens and golfers encouraged to use appropriately for waste.

11.4 Ball washers should be checked regularly and topped up as required, and all the ball washers should be emptied and refilled as required.

11.5 A weekly check should be carried out on the boundary fences or walls, with repairs carried out as necessary.

SECTION D WINTER GOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.1 This Section is necessary due to the challenging nature of the ground conditions for continued maintenance and play of the course during winter months. Recognition of this means the document contains agreed procedures which provide the best opportunities for continued maintenance and play of the course during the winter months.

1.2 Temporary greens should only be used in times of hard frost, thawing conditions or heavy rainfall.

1.3 Temporary greens should begin to be prepared on suitable relatively flat areas of the fairway/green aprons in the month of September. They should be progressively cut down and lightly scarified to provide acceptable putting surfaces. The green areas should be blue lined to provide positive definition. Maintained with hand mowers throughout the winter when conditions allow.

1.4 Winter tee mats may be needed for the protection of selected tees. Also, alternative teeing areas may be necessary where the routes from green to tee are likely to wear significantly as alternatives are unavailable.

1.5 Winter mats/tees must provide golfers with consistent and well-presented tees. They should allow golfers to choose an appropriate playing line from the tee. Grass areas will be part of the winter course wherever possible. Winter tee mats should be lifted cleaned and stored once the regular playing season recommences.

1.6 Traffic management is an essential measure for player's safety and course protection. Relevant signage, roping and markings will be placed on the course from late September. Traffic management measures for the upcoming winter will be communicated regularly to GC members from August onward.

1.7 The need for fairway protection should be reviewed on a regular basis. This may include the introduction of 'No Play Zones' and local rules in areas that may be unplayable. Striking mats may also be considered for use in some areas of the course.

1.8 Provision will be made to provide alternative traffic routes for summer and winter play. This will spread wear and rely on the use of buggy paths as a means of providing safe routes that also protect the course, especially in winter months.

1.9: Winter Course set-up/status notifications:

- As the General Play course will not be set up for qualifying rounds under WHS rules, once winter tees have reduced distance, the course is more amenable to mitigations for winter conditions.
- No Play Zones identified and marked in persistently wet areas. Local rules temporarily in general play allowing free drop nearer on hole side of no play zone once ball retrieved. Examples being approach to 1st hole and right side of fairway approaching 4th hole.
- Roping used to guide electric trollies along paths and for entry and exit to greens and tees wherever possible.
- Requests to GC member on V1 Course status in winter may include:

1. Electric trollies winter wheels only

2. Carry if possible and electric trollies to remain on paths following 90-degree rule where possible
 3. Carry only (Back 9 open/front 9 closed)
 4. Buggies on route planner following 90-degree rule
 5. Buggies for registered disabled only following 90-degree rule
 6. Buggies on front 9 only following route planner and 90-degree rule
- Course status notifications to GC members may be a combination of the requests above plus:
 1. Back 9 Open/Front 9 closed
 2. Number of temporary greens in play
 3. Frost holes/forward positions
 4. Course closed
 - Re-inspection policy at weekends follows the process described in point 12 of Section B.
 - Fog policy updated with new marker for observation intervals to be placed on Oak on left of 1st fairway

1.10 The Traffic Policy Document contains specific guidance on footfall, trolley and buggy use in winter. It includes specific reference to registered disabled golfers in line with equality legislation.



HAGLEY

GOLF CLUB

BIANNUAL COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM & PLANNED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS 2022 & 2023

Main Objective

To establish the first biannual course development program. Beginning a continuous process of long-term improvements to the golf course based on consultation with GC members and in the commercial interests of Lyttelton Enterprises Ltd. To update GC members on planned capital investments in Golf Course machinery and materials that enable proper implementation of the annual Work Program and Course Development Program.

SECTION A – PLANNED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Terraspike for deep aeration x1 (Delivered March 2022)

Purpose

Drainage is a very high priority in maintaining the quality of the course in the season and making it playable in the off season. Hiring machinery and labour once or twice a year has reduced the Head Greenkeeper's opportunities to target specific areas on a more regular basis. The benefit of regularly terra-spiking the greens has been apparent over the past years to all GC members. The greens are now often the best draining areas on the entire course. Having a terra-spiker available to de-compact in areas such as the 4th fairway, walk off from many greens to tees, and short right of 3rd hole will have similar benefits. Making the course better in the season and much more playable in the off season.

Hand mowers x2 for greens maintenance (Delivered March 2022)

Purpose

These will produce a higher quality of cut and be of particular benefit in improving the golf course's condition for winter play.

In winter months (October – April) these will be utilised to the fullest. Particularly as ride on machinery can cause damage to greens and areas of the course during transit in wet conditions. This is also true in unusually wet summer conditions where machinery would cause damage. Having these machines available will be a contingency if there are mechanical issues with the main greens machine. Paths now make it possible to reach every green on the course with a suitable trailer.

Maintaining greens through winter will help keep them playable to a high standard. Any actions that will improve our golf course's condition for winter play will be very valuable.

Hand mowers x1 for tees and green aprons maintenance (Delivered March 2022)

Purpose

Required for tees and aprons throughout the season. Especially beneficial in winter months as it will keep grass tees that remain in play in better condition. As aprons are usually where temporary greens are located it will keep these to a higher standard also. Once more adding value to year-round to Hagley GC membership.

Ventrac tractor with multi-purpose attachments (Due May/June 2022)

a. Semi-rough mower attachment. The current Toro machine is beyond repair and required replacement. The Ventrac attachment cuts to the same lengths whilst being far more agile and able to cut on wetter ground than the Toro.

b. 'Tough-Cut' attachment. This will give the greens team their first opportunity to cut through the very long bramble and overgrown areas at edges of the course. This will improve the appearance of and access to these areas.

c. Power brush. This roller brush will help to maintain many areas of the course, in particular the new buggy paths.

Other on course capital investments

Drainage groundworks improvements to sports field standards on holes 1, 4, 15 and 18.

Week beginning 22nd August working in partnership with an external contractor the greens team will be installing brand new sports field drainage systems on sections of the 1st, 4th, 15th and 18th fairways. These drains will be approximately 5m apart and should provide an excellent means of assessing the effectiveness of such work over the following 12-18 months. If the expected benefits are apparent in the improved playability of these areas further works will be included as part of future Course Development Programs.

Tee areas renovation including steps and new winter mats – New mats, materials, signage

Significant investment will be made in tee-areas to both improve presentation and playing options from these areas, especially in winter months. This will include the introduction of some brand new, wider, and permanently positioned winter tee mats. The positioning of these will be agreed in consultation with our PGA pros, Greens Committee and Greenkeeping team. The continued renovation of existing and addition of new steps to tees will reduce any safety issues and improve appearance.

All signage on tees will be brought into line with Hagley GC branding. Additional signage for traffic management and polite reminders on course etiquette/maintenance will also be introduced.

SECTION B – COURSE DEVELOPEMNET PROGRAM'S GOALS (January 2022 – April 2023)

Short term goals in 2022 – Expected completion date end of April 2022

w/b 14th Feb: All tarmac laid on 14th path and sand for 6th/7th delivered to GC

w/b 21st Feb: Sand added to 6th path

w/b 28th Feb: Sand added to 7th path

w/b 7th March: Astro laying begins on 6th path

w/b 14th March: Astro path completed on 6th and begins on 7th path

w/b 21st March: Astro path completed on 7th

w/b 28th March: Work recommences on 14th bunker

w/b 4th April: Sand from 14th bunker added to 14th path and astro laid to completion

w/b 11th April: Work on 14th bunker recommenced through to completion for w/b 25th April

Greens irrigation improvements (Expected completion end of April 2023)

Work is being continued to double the pressure of water supplied to each of the 4 heads positioned around most greens. This is achieved by altering the current system that divides the water evenly between all 4 heads. The greenkeeping team are now splitting the heads into pairs such that only 2 heads are being served with the same volume that was previously delivered to all 4. This effectively doubles the water pressure to each head. The benefits of this are that each head can then deliver more water across larger areas of the green in a shorter time. The 18th is now near completion with 17th and 12th to be completed by April 2023.

Medium term goals (September 2022-April 2023)

To complete properly some of the work below may have to begin in late August. This will affect the annual Work Program and some general course maintenance tasks may be carried out less frequently from then onward. GC members will be updated regularly on work that may be affected. The expected sequence of improvements from late August is focused on completing bunker renovation and sections of paths that will make the Back 9 more playable in wet conditions. The schedule describing start and end dates for these tasks will be shared at the start of August. The list does not reflect the intended order of work but describes the main improvements to be made:

- 17th Bunkers
- Bunker left of 2nd green
- Path on 8th hole
- Path from 10th green to 11th tee
- Path from 18th tee to adjoin fairway
- Path beside 2nd tee back to 2nd medal tee
- New winter tee mat installations – All Par 3's and 9th
- Renovation of area between 13th green and 14th tee, including new steps to 14th tee
- 3rd/9th Tee renovation
- Terra-spiking, earthquaking and gypsum application on fairways as part of annual drainage program (More details on this will be included with update on drainage works planned for w/b 22nd August)
- Ditch clearances as part of annual drainage program
- 1st tee hut and on course signage improvements

Communications relevant to Winter Golf Management and Traffic Policy will also begin from August.

Amendments to this Policy Document and more detailed information on Development Program into 2023/24 will be shared with GC members.

Consultations between the Head Greenkeeper, Golf Operations Manager, and PGA Pros with the Sports Turf Research Institute's Golf Course (STRI) team are planned for Spring 2022 to help inform these and other development plans and investment. For more information on the STRI go to <https://strigroup.com/sport/golf/>

Regular updates on this year's work will be provided via Greens Newsletters on Club V1 and at www.hagleygolfclub.co.uk