



# NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

## Greens Director Report May 2021

### **The first weeks back:**

Looking forward we have the prospect of some great golf on an ever improving course, the committee met on the 11<sup>th</sup> May and made several important decisions. Improvements and investment is our main focus, the course still needs a lot of work, to date the efforts of the greens staff has been all we could expect of them given the unseasonal conditions up till the early part of May. The course is improving daily, however recent heavy rain will remain in prevalent areas for a short while to come, once passed we will attempt to return bunkers into a playable condition.

The best news we could give you is the warm weather is imminent, greens and grass are showing growth, so much so the green keepers cut the greens on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and removed more full bins of grass than seen since last year, a sure sign we will see repair of the greens pretty quickly. In a few areas we note damage that is either slower to repair or is of a nature that will require transplant, a very small amount of all surface area. This is a procedure where a square is cut from the fringe and placed into a square cut out over any significant damage. Larger areas of brown are being closely monitored, we inspect the greens daily, no area is unknown, all poor growth has the attention of the HGK and his team.

### **Future planned work:**

I can confirm we will be installing significant drainage in October, some will be new and some to replace failed drains, these pipes have a finite life and need replacing. There will be about 9 bunkers and 3 large areas of perennial wet ground drained, this is a significant project not seen for several years on the course and should deliver results for the coming winter and beyond. All work will be scheduled and planned so as to cause minimum disruption. The areas we are concentrating on this year are all within the winter 14 hole course, the back 4 will get its turn in future. I will publish a plan and explain any disruptions closer to the installation, please be patient this work will pay dividends long term.

The 13<sup>th</sup> pond repair will also happen this October, we have raised some funding towards this, the remainder will come from the club projects funds. If you see any competitions or funding drives such as the recent St Georges day raffle, please join in and support us in raising as much as we can towards this project, all money raised will be a lesser strain on our budgets and help benefit elsewhere on the course. Once repaired we will have a signature hole again, one with an unforgiving lip to a pond that only a good drive or lay-up, if that's your choice, will overcome. This work will also cause an amount of disruption, we will notify you of the dates and our plans to negotiate construction closer to commencement.

This coming winter, we will also restart our path building programme, the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> being two paths that we would like to construct that will bring real gains to the course and the look of the holes. For a long time the 8<sup>th</sup> has had heavy wear on the side of the green, our plan is to take traffic into the wooded area from the bridge to the far bridge towards the 9<sup>th</sup>. A line depicting the route is being marked now, this will get us off the grass sooner and used to the route, please try your best to comply. The repair of the grass and small path currently off the 8<sup>th</sup> will be repaired and returned as a playing surface.

The 18<sup>th</sup> path will probably follow the current route and out towards the right of the red tee. This has for too long looked unsightly, we think this hole deserves a much better appearance than the current state it has lapsed into.

**Imminent work:**

Drainage issues on the 17<sup>th</sup> will be dealt with by our own team very soon, disruption for a day may require your patience and forbearance for a short while longer please. Other areas of unusual wet are known by the HGK, some like the 2<sup>nd</sup> may be irrigation, we wish to investigate these carefully, later in the year. GUR will be placed where these affect your play.

You will have noticed trees removed around the course, some are to enable light and airflow. This should improve grass growth, removing damp and bald areas and returning back to us space to use for different tee positions. The committee have decide the removal of trees marked with a X on the 6<sup>th</sup> is not necessary, the bushes off the tee will be trimmed back and some of the less healthier trees within the wooded areas may be removed for the benefit of healthy trees and grass growth.

We all look forward to the return of rakes and the removal of the ball lifters and other restrictions, these will happen once we are instructed by England Golf and the governing bodies, we can't act unilaterally on these COVID measures. Meanwhile we all can play our part in making the best of the situation and smooth sand after play, use sand provided to repair divots on fairways and tees, and not forgetting to remind your playing partners if they themselves lapse.

Two new signs will be erected, advising all players of their individual responsibility to take care on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> with shots not going astray. For a long time our neighbours have tolerated dangerous shots landing in or near their property. To mitigate this unavoidable circumstance we have put measures in place to try to alleviate this occurring, these club notices remind you and your guests of your obligations should you unfortunately his a stray shot. Please read these and ensure your playing partner adheres to our request to report all incidences for your own and the clubs safety.

**In Summary:**

The plans for the course are taking shape, drainage, access, and defined areas are all in progress or booked to happen, investment has been committed to improve our course.

It has taken a little longer than we would have wished for but the greens may soon be just as you remember them, fast and true and looking fearsome if you're placed above the pins. I hope you will join with me and give a warm smile and wave to the greens team when you pass them by, they have been just as anxious as us, the delay due to the cold weather is over we hope, have some great golf .

Andy Hall

Greens Director

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